Tancangco impeachment case may reach high court

Story below, Col. 3

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'Accidental banner': Is Dante Ang in doghouse?

By Carlito Pablo

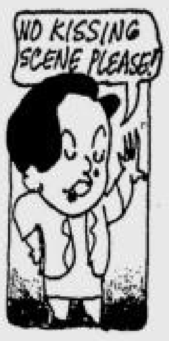
IT WAS an "accidental banner" story, Dante Ang, owner of the Manila Times, said yesterday.

Ang was referring to his newspaper's surprise headline "GMA Kuwait visit a 'publicity stunt.'" Surprising because of the well-known ties that bind Ang to President Macapagal-Arroyo. It also gave

ACCIDENTAL/ A4

Sorry, GMA tells 'kissing bandit'

By Norman Bordadora


NO KISSING SCENE PLEASE!

SORRY, but he can't do that.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday apologized to the family of the yet unidentified

SORRY/ A5

AFP

US ARMY Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki meets with President Macapagal on Tuesday in which Iraq is expected to figure prominently but which government officials have denied.

GMA echoes Bush line on Iraq crisis

President meets with US Army chief

By Carlito Pablo

ECHOING the tough rhetoric of her US counterpart and ally, George W. Bush, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday urged the United Nations to act "with dispatch and force" should Iraq fail to disarm.

"It should be clear to all that the responsibility to avoid conflict rests with the Iraqi leadership," Ms Macapagal said in a nationwide radio address after she met with visiting US Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric Shinseki.

"The UN should be ready to act, with dispatch and force, when required. Otherwise it will lose its credibility as a force for peace," she said in her strongest statement yet on the Iraqi crisis.

Just like Bush whose antiterror campaign she staunchly supports, Ms Macapagal voiced disappointment over the response of Iraq to UN Resolution No. 1441 calling for the destruction of its weapons of mass destruction. She too indicated that time was running out on the Iraqi leaders.

"They have one last opportunity to put the world on notice that the Iraqi leadership aspires not to conflict and suffering but for compassion and humanity for its people," Ms Macapagal said.

But Malacañang officials played down the meeting between Ms Macapagal and Shinseki at 11 a.m. Tues-

GMA/ A18

OFWs prefer war threat to ₱80-day jobs

By Blanche S. Rivera, Norman Bordadora and Carlito Pablo

THEY would rather face the threat of war than go home to an P80-per-day job. At least that's what the families of Filipino workers in the Middle East believe.

Many of those who came to hear President Macapagal-Arroyo at the Philippine Trade and Training Center in Pasay City yesterday are convinced that their loved ones were better off staying in the troubled region.

Fhahima Akmad, 46, who has at least nine relatives working as domestic helpers in Kuwait, said they were fine and preferred to stay in the emirate, which borders Iraq.

Akmad came with fellow Muslim women and their children from the Baseco Compound in Manila, where many of the Muslim residents have gone to Kuwait to work.

"What would happen to them here? They would just end up as sales ladies ... and would get, what, P70-80 per day?" she said.

"There's nothing here, especially for Mus-

OFWS/ A18

ERIK ARAZAS

THE PAIR most likely: Lady most likely to run for veep, Sen. Loren Legarda, with Estrada party's most likely bet, Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Ping PMP bet but Erap wants FPJ

By Volt Contreras and Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

THE POLITICAL party of jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada is backing Sen. Panfilo Lacson as the presidential bet of a united opposition for 2004.

This was confirmed yesterday by the Partido ng Masang Pilipino(PMP) president Horacio "Boy" Morales.

Lacson, who is with the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, is "being invited to be the PMP's guest candidate," said Morales, who was Estrada's secretary of agrarian reform.

"Ping is our candidate; we cannot wait all the time for FPJ (to decide whether to enter politics," he said, referring to action star Fernando Poe Jr., Estrada's personal choice as the PMP presidential candidate.

But sources inside the Estrada

PING/ A15

'GULP' WAR

German apology accepted plus $5,000

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Forgiveness came at a stiff price.

A retired US Marine, who was stabbed by a German five times following a drunken argument over the impending US attack on Iraq, wants his assailant to pay him 20 percent of the German's salary for two years in exchange for an out-of-court settlement.

Frank Oesterle, a German economist from Munich, has yet to accept John Flynn's proposal as he found the demand "too much."

Oesterle is now detained at the police station in Moalboal town, about 90 km south of this city, after he stabbed Flynn inside a bar Friday. He is facing charges of frustrated murder before the Moalboal Municipal Circuit Trial Court.

SPO3 Henry Obiso, acting Moalboal police chief, told the INQUIRER that Flynn, 41, and Oesterle, 37, had talked for an hour yesterday.

He said Oesterle apologized to the American when Flynn went to the police station at about 11 a.m. Flynn, a Roman Catholic, accepted the apology, the police chief said.

But apparently, the apology came with a price tag. Obiso said Flynn first asked the German to pay him $5,000 (about P250,000). Flynn claimed that his hospital expenses had reached P40,000.

But Oesterle could not pay the American immediately because he had no money.

Flynn gave the German two options. One is to face a possible imprisonment of five to seven years. The other is to suffer "pay-

GERMAN/ A5

Cebu publisher, Maranao professor bag Aquino award

By Connie E. Fernandez
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Last Jan. 16 was just another busy day for Eileen Mangubat, publisher of the Cebu Daily News.

It was already 5 p.m. when she finally found the time to return the call of a US Embassy officer, who had phoned repeatedly.

Molly Stephenson, the embassy's assistant cultural affairs officer, had reason to call. Mangubat had been chosen as one of

CEBU/ A18

EILEEN MANGUBAT: First provincial journalist to receive the award.

Tancangco impeach case may reach SC

By Christine O. Avendaño

LAWMAKERS foiled in their attempt to pass an impeachment complaint against Elections Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco are considering taking their case to the Supreme Court.

Batanes Rep. Florencio Abad, one of the 57 congressmen who voted Monday night to have Tancangco investigated by the House for impeachable offenses, yesterday said a number of them were studying the possibility of seeking a legal clarification from the tribunal.

Abad said they wanted to be clarified on the interpretation of the House impeachment rules on voting, particularly that requiring all members of the chamber to vote on the report of the justice committee on impeachment cases.

"We're studying and fully researching the matter," he told reporters.

The House voted 69-57 Monday night to affirm the justice committee's report recommending the dismissal of the impeachment complaint against Tancangco for lack of substance.

A minority congressman who requested anonymity said the lawmakers had voted the way they did because they heard that Malacañang wanted to replace Tancangco, supposedly in preparation for next year's elections.

The congressman said this backed the suspicion that contrary to her declaration on Dec. 30, President Macapagal-Arroyo would run in 2004.

In a last-ditch effort to overturn the outcome of the vote, Western Samar Rep. Antonio Nachura had requested House leaders to allow another round of voting for those who were not present. He asked that the session not be adjourned but merely suspended so the vote could be taken the next day.

But because there was no quorum, House leaders had turned down Nachura's request and promptly adjourned the session.

Abad said the Monday night vote only managed to put "a cloud of doubt ... on Tancangco's

TANCANGCO/ A18

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Eastern Luzon, Eastern Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/02/05/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Second FrontPage

Candao clan seeks probe of killings

By Edwin O. Fernandez
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—Members of the Candao political clan yesterday called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to look deeper into the rash of killings here and in Maguindanao, including Monday's ambush of a former governor's brother.

"We appeal to you, Madame President, to look into this problem because many innocent people are becoming helpless victims," Bai Maleiha Candao-Ulangkaya, daughter of former Gov. Zacaria Candao of Maguindanao and of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said over the Church-run radio dxMS here.

Candao's brother Abdulkadir, 65, was shot dead by two motorcycle-riding men while driving his Isuzu Highlander van along De Mazenod Avenue.

Abdulkadir was accompanying his son, Sultan, to the Notre Dame University's Elementary Training Department when he was attacked. His son was unharmed.

Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong, who hails from Maguindanao and is a partymate of the former governor in the ruling Lakas-NUCD party before he joined Macapagal's Cabinet, gave assurance that he would work double time to give justice to the victim.

"I have directed the National Bureau of Investigation to identify the suspects, arrest and prosecute them to give justice to Peping Candao and all other victims of senseless killings in the province," Datumanong said.

Ulangkaya said the family believed the murder was politically motivated. She noted that two of her relatives, Murad Bajunaid and Abdulla Datumanong, had been missing since last year.

"Everybody in the city and in Maguindanao knows who did it," she said, but she refused to give names.

Mayor Muslimin Sema described the killing as an affront to the government's security program in the city.

"There's something wrong with the security arrangements," Sema said, adding that the gun ban ordered by the President was disadvantageous to legitimate gun holders and was exploited by holders of unlicensed firearms.

He directed a major shakeup in the city police leadership following remarks made over a local TV station by Senior Supt. Sanggacala Dampac, city police chief, that the latest killing was "isolated" and that the city was generally peaceful.

Abdulkadir Candao served as the former governor's security chief. A former field commander of the Moro National Liberation Front, he surrendered to the government under an amnesty program of then President Ferdinand Marcos.

CANDAO

Senate OKs 'absentee' bill final version

By Cynthia D. Balana

WITH 14 senators in favor and only one against, the Senate ratified yesterday the conference committee report on the absentee voting law which seeks to allow 7.3 million overseas Filipinos to vote in national elections staring in 2004.

Sen. Edgardo Angara, head of the Senate panel in the conference committee, said the measure was just the beginning of a "wonderful experiment and political adventure" for overseas Filipinos who have contributed immensely in keeping the economy afloat.

The House is expected to also ratify the final version of the bill today. After this, the bill will be presented to President Macapagal on Friday for signing.

"It is our further task to continue and perfect the law, to make more meaningful the participation of overseas Filipinos in our country's political process," Angara said.

He said that the right to vote, which was guaranteed under the Constitution, should follow every Filipino even outside the country.

Two versions of the proposed law had been filed in past congresses but it was only yesterday that it reached the ratification stage by senators.

Voting for the report were Senators Sergio and John Osmeña, Robert Jaworski, Panfilo Lacson, Vicente Sotto III, Aquilino Pimentel, Ramon Magsaysay, Noli de Castro, Francis Pangilinan, Manuel Villar, Robert Barbers, Loren Legarda and Senate President Pro Tempore Juan Flavier.

Only Sen. Joker Arroyo voted against the measure, saying the measure violated the Constitution, which imposes residency requirements for voters—at least one year in the Philippines and six months in the place where they propose to vote.

Tempers flare at the Senate

By C. Balana

A DRAMATIC scene, but not one for the Senate journals.

This is how Senate President Franklin Drilon sees the incident on Monday night, when Sen. Ramon Magsaysay, under intense grilling over his report on proposed amendments to the Anti-Money Laundering Act (AMLA), banged a palm on the rostrum and turned his back on Sen. Edgardo Angara.

This happened shortly after Drilon suspended the period for amendments, and caused a commotion in the hall.

Angara had insisted on "rewriting" the report being sponsored by Magsaysay as head of the Senate team in the bicameral congressional committee on money laundering.

Bone of contention was a provision which, Angara said, violated the bank secrecy law. Yesterday, a sober Magsaysay made light of the incident.

"Oh, it was nothing," he told the INQUIRER, "just non-verbal body language (to indicate) that we have to consider the time frame." The Paris-based Financial Action Task Force, which wanted the AMLA amended, earlier set a Feb. 12 deadline.

"I was smiling when I turned around," he said. "I was just testing (my colleagues') reflexes, since we had been deliberating for almost four hours."

Magsaysay later approached Angara and hugged him.

"*Hindi na ba mainit ulo mo* (is your head cooler)?" a smiling Angara asked. "I meant to help you."

Drilon said Magsaysay could have been aggravated by the slow pace of the debates.

"He has been working so hard on (the report)," Drilon said. "(The incident) was probably the result of too much pressure."

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Bush, GMA to meet April 2

UNITED States President George W. Bush is all set to welcome President Macapagal-Arroyo for a state visit on Apr. 2 to discuss the war on terrorism and other issues, the White House announced in a statement from Washington on Monday.

Bush plans to discuss how the Philippines and the US can further bilateral relations, "including in the war against terror," said Ari Fleischer, Bush's spokesperson.

"The United States and the Philippines are treaty allies bound by shared history, shared values and a shared commitment to a peaceful and prosperous 21st century," he said.

Bush looked forward to discussing how the US can best support Ms Macapagal's efforts to strengthen the rule of law, move forward on economic reforms and alleviate poverty in the Philippines, Fleischer said.

Bush last month sent Ms Macapagal a letter expressing support for her campaign against Muslim and communist insurgents.

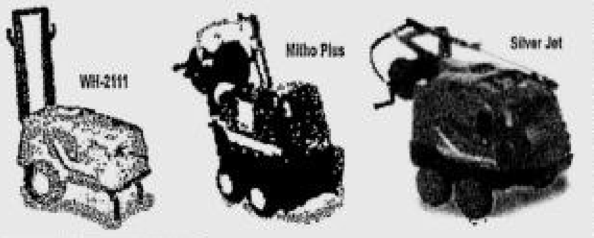
He said that while "important strides in the war against terror in your country" have been made, "additional terrorist attacks against civilians and the resulting loss of innocent life mean there is still much to be done."

Ms Macapagal is a key Washington ally in the region, and was among the first leaders to have backed the US-led war on terrorism following the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in the US.

US administration officials have praised Southeast Asian governments for committing to battle terrorism but have said there is more work to be done.

Last year, about 1,000 US Special Forces were sent to help Philippine troops fight the Abu Sayyaf bandit group in Mindanao, leading to the death of Abu Sayyaf leader Abu Sabaya and the rescue of US missionary hostage Gracia Burnham.

But Burnham's husband, Martin, and Filipino nurse Ediborah Yap, died in the bloody rescue attempt. *AFP and AP*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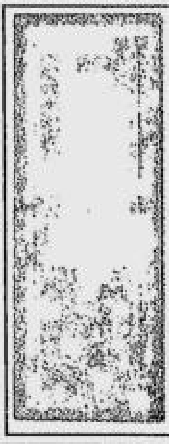
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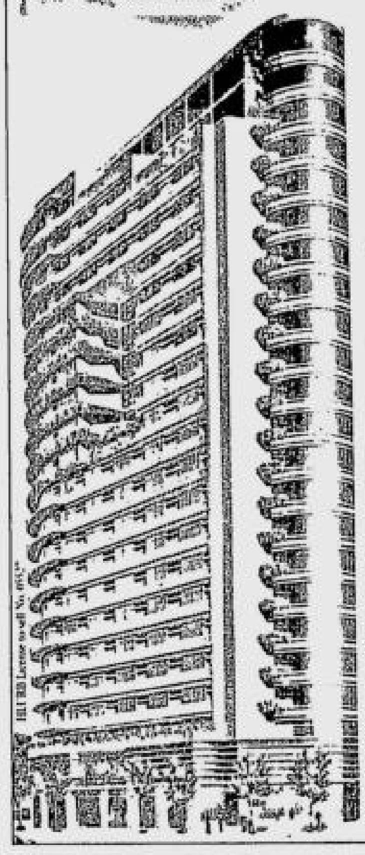
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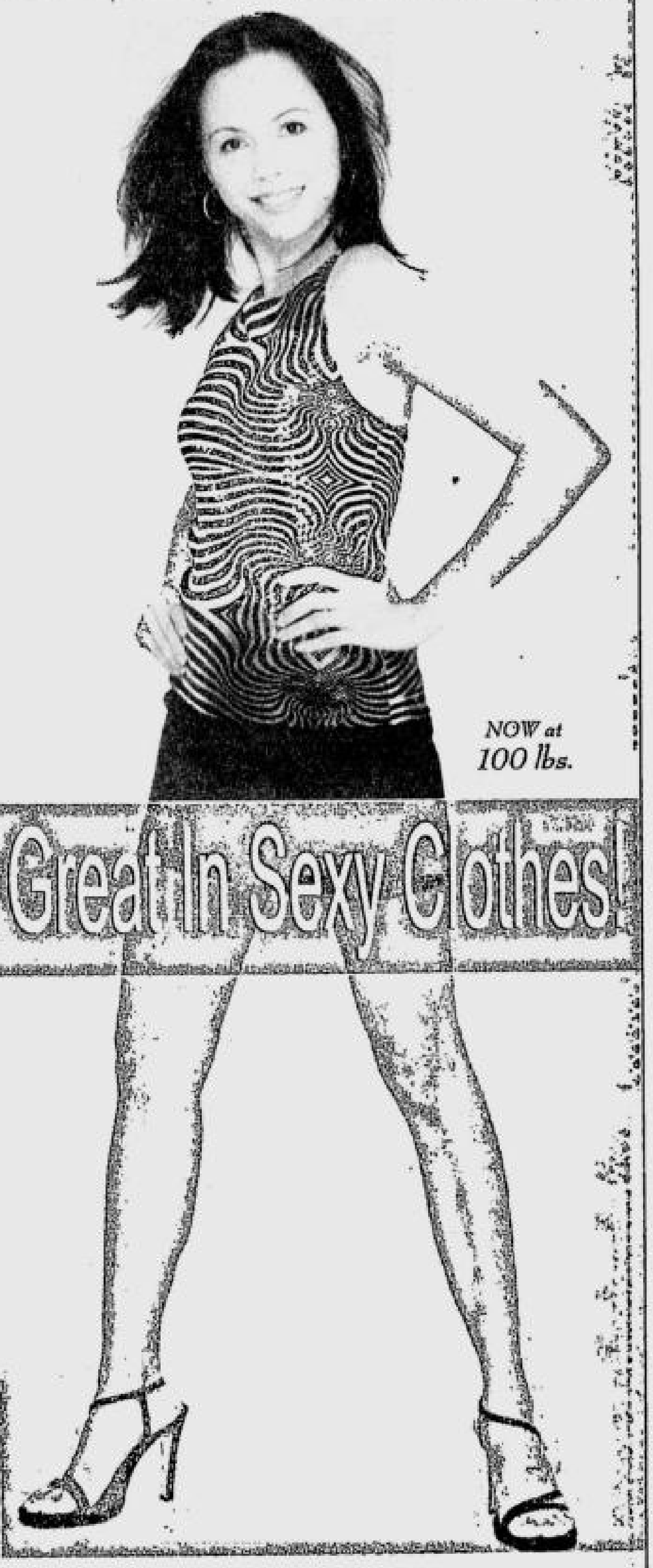

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'Accidental banner': Is Dante Ang in doghouse?

From page A1

the Manila Times the distinction of being the only newspaper that gave that spin to the President's visit to Kuwait over the weekend.

The Feb. 4 banner story has fueled speculations that the erstwhile private publicist of President Macapagal is either already out of the Malacañang loop or has jumped ship.

While saying that he "doesn't interfere" in the day-to-day affairs of his editorial people, Ang explained the newspaper's headline was the work of two new editors who had closed the front page the day before.

"The said banner highlighting what militant groups are saying about the President's trip to Kuwait is a judgment call by the desk and I have nothing to do with it," Ang said.

Asked if he would confront the editors for the headline, Ang said: "No. I have no plan of confronting the (news) desk given the fact that I have given them editorial independence and to confront them will send the wrong signal."

"I believe that the best way I can serve the President is to make the Manila Times credible," said Ang, who bought the newspaper from businessman Mark Jimenez, the Manila congressman extradited to the United States on Dec. 26 on charges of tax fraud and illegal campaign contributions to the Democratic Party and Bill Clinton.

"Manila Times is an institution, so I want to build it as a legacy beyond my lifetime," he said. The newspaper published its maiden issue on Oct. 11, 1898. Before the declaration of martial law in 1972, the Manila Times, then owned by the Roces family, was the country's largest circulated newspaper.

Ang said he continued to support the President. But he was reaffirming his distance from the President "to protect her." "It's unfair that I'm always suspected of not moving without GMA's approval. I'm a free agent," he said. "The criticisms," he added, "are coming from some of her advisers."

"My concentration now is on Manila Times, its sister publication Kabayan and my other publications," Ang said.

So is Ang out of the loop?

A Manila Times source confirmed that Ang had "indeed distanced himself from the President because of intrigues and incessant attacks against him by the very people close to the President."

DANTE ANG: The best way to protect the interests of the President and the Manila Times is to be fair, objective, accurate and therefore credible. PDI PHOTO

"Mr. Ang thought it best to distance himself from President Macapagal to shield her from the effects of the same attacks and prevent a possible falling out between him and the President," the source said.

Detractors

The source said that Ang's detractors in Malacañang continued to harp on his business dealings, particularly his acquisition of Bank-Wise and of the rights to distribute Technogas products.

On Nov. 12, Ang resigned as Ms Macapagal's senior consultant on public relations, a one-peso a year post, citing reasons of *delicadeza* following the negative publicity generated by his business dealings. The next day, he resigned as chair and executive officer of the government-controlled IBC-13 television network, and as director of Apo-Neda, a government printing office.

Ang disclosed that Tomas Alcantara, a consultant of the President, recently informed him that Ms Macapagal "had some '*tampo* (hurting)' because I don't volunteer to do jobs for her anymore."

Phone call away

"But you know, I'm just a phone call away," Ang said. "I'm at the beck and call of the President."

Asked about the Manila Times' editorial posture, Ang said: "It will be a purveyor of news and truth."

"It will be neither pro-administration nor a pro-opposition paper," he said. "It will be balanced, fair, accurate and objective."

"It's the best way to protect her interests and the interests of the Manila Times, he said.

Ang noted that based on a recent survey by the US-based firm AC Neilsen, the Manila Times was already number four among the daily newspapers in the country.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
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ANNOUNCEMENT

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has submitted to the Commission on Appointments (C.A.) for confirmation the nominations of the following officials in the Department of Foreign Affairs:

ANTONIO V. RODRIGUEZ - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Kingdom of Thailand and Permanent Representative to the United Nations' Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), with the rank of Chief of Mission Class II.

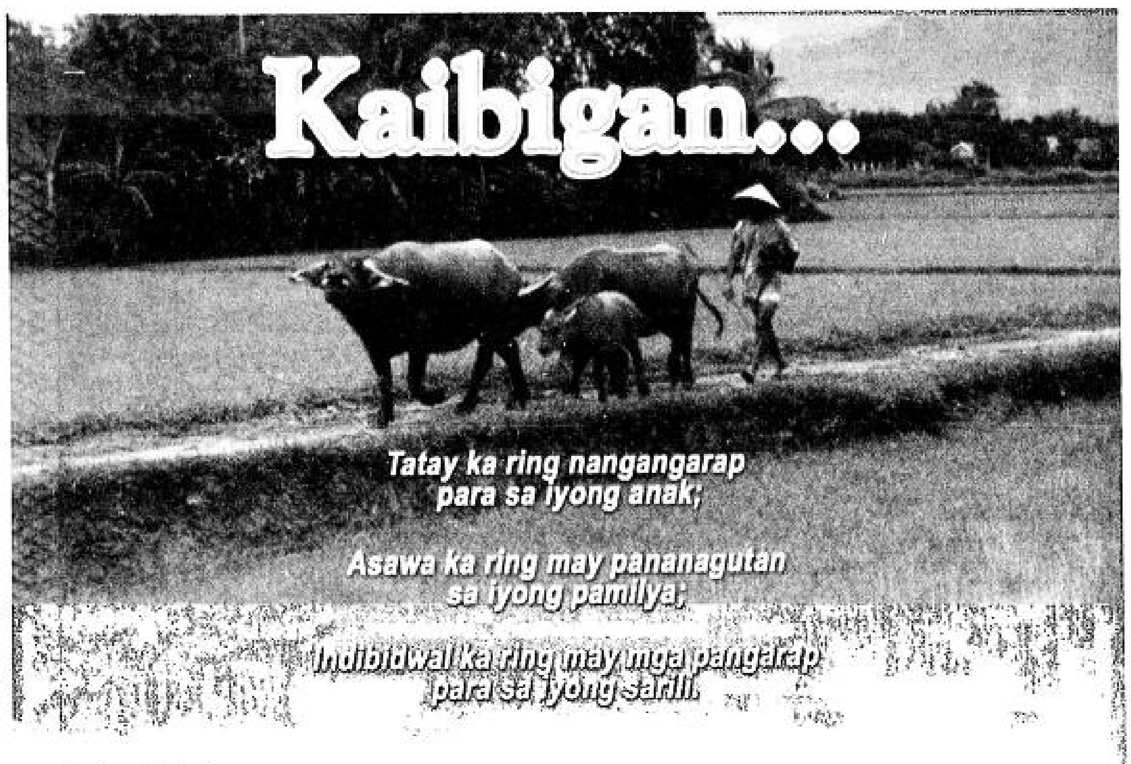
ROMUALDO A. ONG - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Malaysia, with the rank of Chief of Mission, Class I.

The public may submit any information, written report or sworn complaints or oppositions in forty (40) copies on the above nominations to the CA Secretariat, 6th Floor, PNB Financial Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, Metro Manila.

For the schedule of the public hearings, the CA Secretariat can be reached through telephone numbers 551-7532, 831-0893, 831-1824, 834-2706, 831-1566 and 834-2713.

04 February 2003.

ARTURO L. TIU
Secretary



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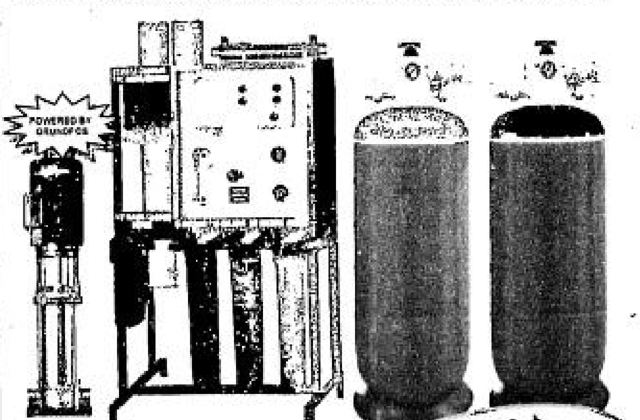

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Sorry, GMA tells 'kissing bandit'

From page A1

overseas Filipino worker whom a security aide expertly blocked from stealing a kiss while she was pressing the flesh Sunday in Kuwait City.

But the President—now home from checking on preparations for the evacuation of OFWs in the Middle East in the event of war between the United States and Iraq—admonished the "kissing bandit" for puckering up. She said it was not in keeping with Filipino custom for him to do so just because he felt like it.

"If he is your relative, tell him I'm sorry. But then, a man kissing a woman on a whim is not part of our culture, is it?" the 55-year-old grandmother said in otherwise affectionate remarks to the families and friends of OFWs who welcomed her at the Philippine Trade and Training Center (PTTC) in Pasay City.

In the Reuters photograph taken at a reception for OFWs at the emir's palace, the man dressed in a suit was shown immediately in front of a smiling Ms Macapagal, the palm of her bodyguard planted on his left cheek. Yesterday's INQUIRER, as well as other newspapers, had the picture on its front page.

The President was driven to the PTTC immediately after she arrived from Kuwait where she met not only with the Filipino community but also with the emir, Sheik Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, and the Philippine ambassadors and chargés d'affaires in the Middle East.

And as she had promised the OFWs in Kuwait, she delivered personal messages to their families at home.

"Annabel Carpio asked me to call her son Francis and her friend Cory Ramos to tell them she's safe at the Mubarak Hospital, where she is working [as a nurse]," Ms Macapagal said. "To Francis and Cory, if you are hearing this, there ... I have already called you."

The President also read out messages to the relatives and friends of two other OFWs.

She said that in a letter to her sister Bella Gracia, Mercy Palmencio sent regards to the whole family, especially to their mother and nieces.

"I'm sorry I read the letter [for Bella]. Besides, it was open," she quipped, eliciting laughter from her audience.

She went on to say that Erwin Zulueta had relayed an invitation to his mother to take part in yesterday's meeting at the PTTC.

"There are still other letters I have received [for the OFWs' families here]," she said, adding:

"I will send them to those concerned when I get back to Malacañang."

As she did in Kuwait, the President expressed "deep concern" for the OFWs in the Middle East especially in light of the looming war.

"We asked them to stay in the Middle East because that is what they want," she said. "But we assured them that we have plans set up for their evacuation if needed."

She also thanked Kuwait's emir for pardoning 20 Filipino prisoners there and for allowing 200 OFWs to return home after they abandoned their employers in violation of their contracts. *With an AP report*

German apology accepted . . .

From page A1

OESTERLE: Stiff reparation for "gulp war"

ing 20 percent of your salary for two years."

Obiso said Flynn had told the German that he was not after his money as he only wanted to punish Oesterle and to make the German realize his wrongdoing.

"Because nothing will happen if he only pays for the hospital bill," Obiso quoted Flynn as saying.

"That's too much," Oesterle reportedly replied.

The police officer, however, said Flynn remained open to another settlement proposal from Oesterle.

Obiso said Flynn had told the German that he was willing to hear Oesterle's counter-offer. If he liked it, Obiso said, the case would be settled.

Oesterle did not divulge how much he was getting as an economist. But he told Obiso that if he gave Flynn 20 percent of his salary for a period of two years, the total amount could reach P1 million if converted to pesos.

But Obiso said Oesterle was still thinking about the offer. He has until Feb. 10 to make up his mind.

The two agreed to come up with a final settlement arrangement during Oesterle's arraignment on Monday at the Moalboal Municipal Trial Court.

"Maybe before the arraignment, the settlement can be arranged," Obiso said in Cebuano.

Flynn and Oesterle were both guests at the Panagsama Beach Resort in Barangay Basdiot, Moalboal. They met at the resort's Lloyds Videoke Bar early Friday and started drinking. At about 4 a.m., the two got drunk and started discussing the Iraq war. The discussion later turned ugly.

The German was opposed to the US plan to attack Iraq because of its effect on thousands of innocent people. But Oesterle said Flynn, who was in favor of the attack, got mad.

Oesterle claimed that Flynn grabbed his throat, prompting him to stab the American with a Swiss knife.

Flynn was first brought to the nearby Badian District Hospital before he was transferred to Cebu Doctors Hospital in Cebu City. He checked out on Monday afternoon.

Obiso said Oesterle had been depressed as the German feared that his mother might learn about what happened.

The police had been keeping a tight watch on Oesterle because he might kill himself. Sometimes, police allowed the German to get out from his cell to take a bath to make him feel fresh and comfortable, according to Obiso.

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Medical convention to tackle RP'S top killer disease

ATHEROSCLEROSIS, the country's number one killer disease, will be the major focus of study and discussion of the 8th joint annual convention of the Philippine Society of Hypertension (PSH) and Philippine Lipid Society in cooperation with 22 of the country's other top medical societies and professional health organizations."

Slated Feb. 10 to 12 at the Edsa Shangrila Hotel, the three-day convention will tackle the latest advances in the management of Disseminated Atherosclerosis.

Atherosclerosis refers to deposits of yellowish plaques or atheromas containing cholesterol in the inner layer of the arteries. These cause the hardening of the blood vessels with the attendant clot formation or thrombosis, which is the basis of coronary and cerebral artery diseases.

Dr. Gregorio B. Patacsil Jr., president of the Philippine Society of Hypertension and Dr. Dante D. Morales, president, Philippine Lipid Society, said the problems posed by atherosclerosis are getting bigger and more complex.

Dr. Esperanza I. Cabral, overall chair of the organizing committee, said there are numerous developments and advances in the fields of hypertension and lipidology that can help both medical professionals in the effort to manage, control and prevent atherosclerosis.

RESTRAINING ORDER

Appeals court halts PAGC probe of Perez

THE COURT of Appeals has temporarily halted the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission's investigation of the administrative case against resigned Justice Secretary Hernando Perez.

In a resolution dated Feb. 3, 2003, the CA's eighth division stopped the PAGC, particularly its chair Dario Rama, commissioner Teresita Baltazar and director for investigation Imelda Dangoy, from "conducting further proceedings" on the case.

The court issued the order in response to a petition for review filed by Perez against a series of orders by the PAGC. The agency said it had found "sufficient basis" to start an administrative investigation against the former justice chief.

The administrative case with the PAGC stemmed from Perez's issuance of a memorandum on Nov. 16, 2002 prohibiting the immigration bureau from revealing the travel records of the President, Vice President and members of Congress and the Cabinet.

Bulacan Rep. Willie Villarama claimed that Perez had issued the memorandum to prevent him and Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez from getting Perez's travel records.

Jimenez had accused Perez of extorting $2 million from him. Villarama, a Jimenez ally, revealed the extortion attempt in a privilege speech in Congress.

Perez countered that this order did not bar Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo from revealing the travel records of these officials. He said all the the requesting party needed to do was submit a reason for wanting the records.

Perez has also asked the CA to issue a preliminary injunction against the PAGC to stop the agency's investigation indefinitely.

Perez cited the following orders from the PAGC: a Dec. 17, 2002 order finding sufficient basis to begin an administrative investigation against him and which required him to file a counter-affidavit within 10 days from notice; a Jan. 7, 2003 order denying his motion for disqualification; a Jan. 13, 2003 order denying his motion for reconsideration on the Jan. 7, 2003 order; and a Jan. 13, 2003 order resolving not to answer the motions filed on the case.

The temporary restraining order on the PAGC issued by the appeals court is for 60 days.

In its resolution, the CA directed the PAGC to submit its comment within 10 days, which would be treated as the agency's answer should the court decide to give due course to Perez's petition.

It said Perez could reply within five days of the PAGC's submission of its comment.

Both sides were ordered to appear in court on Feb. 14.

The CA resolution was penned by Associate Justice Elvi John Asuncion, and concurred in by division chair Associate Justice Conrado M. Vasquez Jr. and Associate Justice Sergio L. Pestaño. *Donna S. Cueto*

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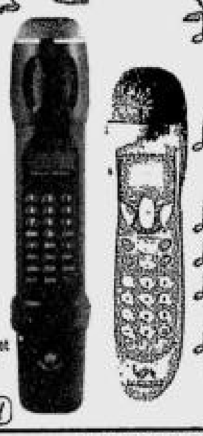

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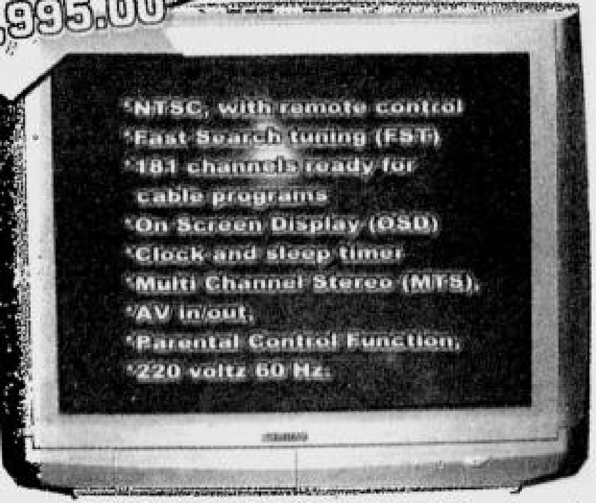

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GMA hit for letting Meralco hike PPA

AS THE POWER purchase adjustments of Manila Electric Co. continue to rise, the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo continues to pay lip service to the welfare of consumers.

This was the assertion yesterday of Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile who said consumers, especially households which cannot pass their PPA to others, have begun to complain against the rising PPA in their monthly electric bills.

Starting late last year, households in Meralco franchise areas noticed their electric bills increasing because of bigger purchased power adjustments being charged to them, Enrile said in a statement.

He said PPA now represents 45.87 percent of electric bills and may soon exceed the May 2002 level of 50.84 percent.

Enrile said the increase in electric bills was largely due to Meralco's decision to buy more of more expensive power supply from its own independent power producers such as the Lopez-owned First Gas Power Corp., Quezon Power (Philippines) Ltd. and Duracom.

Meralco used to buy the bulk of its requirements from a cheaper supplier like the National Power Corp. with whom it has an existing supply contract, he said.

Enrile explained that Meralco has an existing 10-year power supply contract with Napocor under which Meralco committed to buy 3,600 megawatts daily from Napocor.

However, Meralco has unilaterally reduced its power purchases from the Napocor and, instead, buys a greater bulk of the electricity that it sells to its customers from its own independent power producers, Enrile said.

Enrile said Meralco's independent power producers charge at the very expensive average price of P5.73 per kwh, compared to the P3.35 per kwh that Napocor charges Meralco.

TB costs victims P27B a year

TUBERCULOSIS exacts a heavy economic price from the country, wiping off P27 billion in potential wage incomes every year, according to a study to be released this week.

The disease killed about 51,000 people in the country in 2000, and "the economic impact is just as oppressive," according to a preview of the study funded by the US Agency for International Development.

"Premature deaths from tuberculosis wipe away a staggering P27 billion in potential wage income in the Philippines every year," the Philippine Tuberculosis Initiative for Private Sector said in a statement.

The figure is equivalent to 2.7 percent of the Philippines' real gross domestic product in 2001.

The health department lists tuberculosis as the sixth leading cause of deaths in the country, causing about 28,000 deaths a year.

Tuberculosis is a communicable disease that primarily affects the lungs. *AFP*

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3.6 million foreigners visited RP last year, says MIAA

MORE than three million international travelers continued to make the country their favorite destinations despite threats of terrorism, according to records of airport arrivals.

The Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) said it recorded an increase in the volume of visitors.

MIAA General Manager Edgardo Manda said 3.6 million foreigners came to the Philippines and left in 2002.

To date, there are more and more foreigners who enter the country and leave safely, the MIAA said in a press statement.

It said arrivals increased despite travel advisories that placed the Philippines at a disadvantage as a tourist destination.

The total number of passengers at MIAA, including Filipinos, reached 7.4 million, or 4.5 percent higher than the 7.1 million passengers in 2001.

Manda said the volume of passengers fluctuated in December due to the closure of the embassies of Australia and Canada in Makati City amid heightened alert of bombings and kidnappings in several parts of the Philippines.

The threats, however, did not stop foreigners from visiting the country, the MIAA said.

Manda said MIAA generated some P1.9 billion in passengers' terminal fees, P1.76 billion in aeronautical fees, P1.07 billion in rental fees, and P1 billion in concession privilege fees, lobby and porterage fees from January to December 2002.

MIAA said it remitted P745 million to the national treasury, higher than the P705-million remittance in 2001. In December alone, P62 million was remitted, exceeding its target by P61 million.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue generated some P326 million in income tax from MIAA in 2002.

The increase in foreign arrivals was recorded amid the controversy surrounding the construction of Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. The issue is pending at the Supreme Court.

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Founding Chairman

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Foretaste of war

EDITORIAL

COMING back yesterday from a quick trip to Kuwait, President Macapagal-Arroyo told relatives of Filipino workers there was no reason for them to worry. She said the workers asked her to assure their relatives that they were "relaxed and happy to see me."

That was the same observation she made in Kuwait a day earlier when she met with Filipino workers. And the pictures from that visit actually showed them to be apparently unperturbed or unmindful of the war looming in the horizon. Were they just putting up a bold front for the folks back home or did the President's presence buoy up their spirits and make them forget, if only temporarily, the very real dangers they face?

Palace officials who went as the President's advance party, noted that underneath their calm demeanor the Filipinos were starting to feel some anxiety over the growing possibility that the United States would launch an attack on Iraq soon. Naturally, if war breaks out across the border from Kuwait, Filipino workers could find themselves in the line of fire. If they manage to get out of harm's way, they could still lose their jobs, which to many seems to be a fate worse than death. "What would happen to them here?" asked a Muslim woman in Manila who has nine relatives working as domestic helpers in Kuwait. "They would just end up as salesladies, earning P80 a day. There's nothing here for them." That's the reality the workers and their families will have to face if war breaks out in Iraq.

The President told the workers that her administration had drawn up a comprehensive contingency plan in case of war. Among other things, "the plan aims that no single OFW will get hurt and that none will get dislocated," she said. And the government has set aside a P1-billion fund that can be tapped in case of an emergency, she added.

Such assurances are good to hear, but the OFWs would be foolish to bank on them. The Philippine economy may have registered an encouraging rate of growth last year, but other indicators tend to dampen expectations for the near future. For instance, the stock market is down and unemployment is up. The value of the peso has sunk to an all-time low, while the price of oil has risen to an all-time high. And not a single bullet has been fired yet.

Already we are getting a foretaste of the devastation war would wreak on the Philippine economy, but instead of adding its small voice to the growing international opposition to the war US President George Bush wants to wage against Iraq, the Macapagal administration supports such aggression. There is only one way to achieve everything Ms Macapagal promised to the workers in the Middle East, and that is if Bush's march to war is stopped. But Ms Macapagal is doing the exact opposite by putting the Philippines firmly in the camp of the aggressors.

Is this because of promised or anticipated help from the Americans? If this is the case, the administration should look closely at the balance sheet. The figures being bandied come up to just a small fraction of the damage to our economy which will be caused by the dislocation of tens, possibly hundreds of thousands of OFWs in the Middle East and the astronomical cost of crude oil in the event of war.

It's not only the OFWs and their folks back home who should feel anxious about a war in Iraq. Every Filipino should fear its consequences.

No reason for war

FOREIGN COMMENT

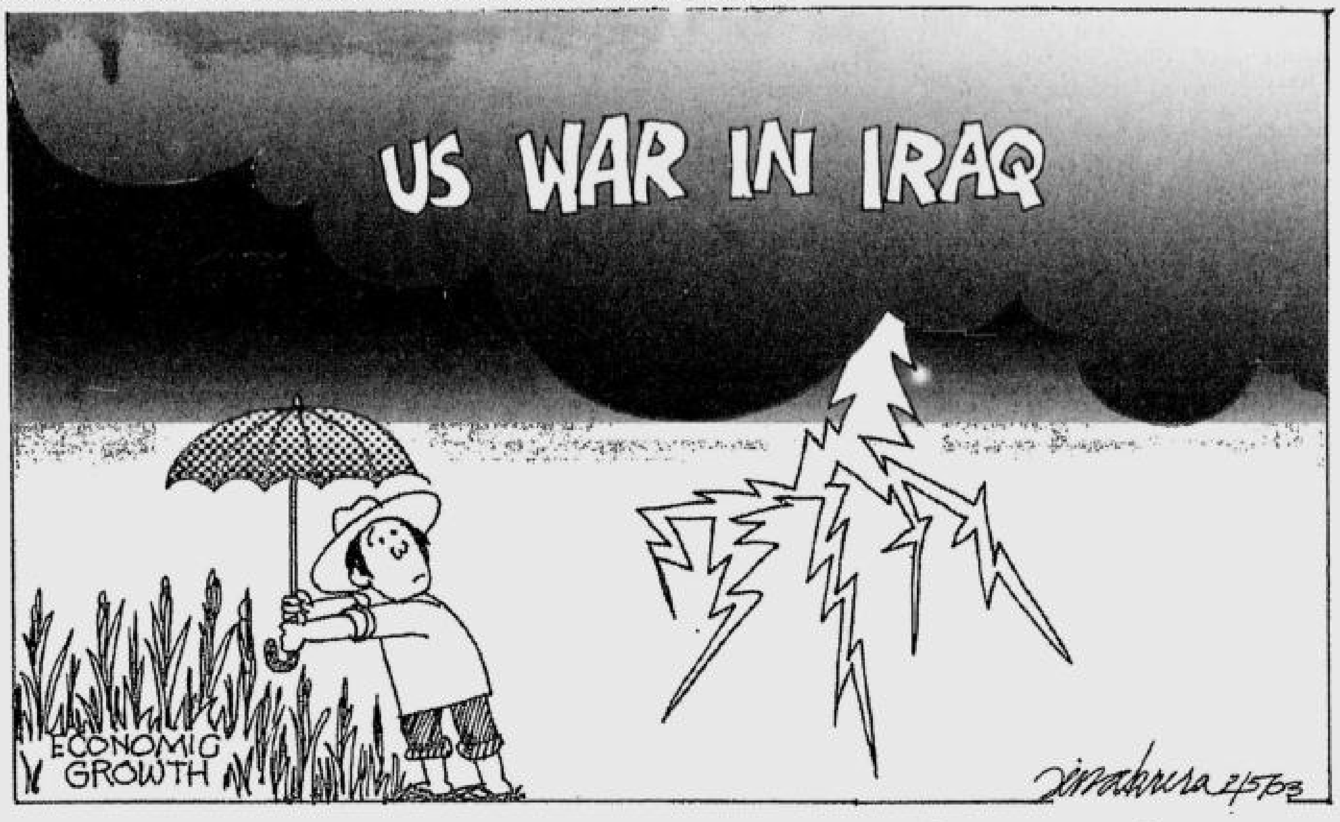
US President George W. Bush's administration has not presented watertight grounds for going to war, and an exaggerated enthusiasm in Washington has diminished its credibility.

Iraq does not pose an immediate threat to world peace. No credible proof has been presented linking it to the al-Qaida terrorist group. Some of the claims about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction have proven to be questionable, and so on. A "smoking gun" is desperately now needed in the name of international credibility.

Saddam Hussein's list of crimes is long and his power is a great misfortune for the Iraqis. These would be reason enough to overthrow him but we have to weigh that against the unforeseen victims and consequences of a strike.

If they turn out to be few, the war will seem justified in retrospect. However, the Security Council cannot know that beforehand.

Helsingin Sanomat (Helsinki, Finland)



BIR flip-flops on VAT for professionals

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

HOW can the ordinary citizen understand the value added tax (VAT) on professionals when officials of the Bureau of Internal Revenue themselves are confused and can't agree on its interpretation? Last Jan. 27, we had as guest at the Kapihan sa Manila Director Ruperto P. Somera, chief of the BIR's Region 6 (Manila). He had been sent there by Commissioner Guillermo Parayno to explain the VAT to media.

I asked Somera if journalists who are not fixed-income earners like columnists and correspondents are among the professionals who have to pay the 10-percent VAT. He answered that journalists are not on the list. On the other hand, broadcasters, who are paid on talent basis, are on the list. Professionals, Somera continued, are those who have to pass government examinations and are issued licenses by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) like doctors, lawyers, engineers, accountants, architects, etc. Show-biz workers and professional athletes don't take examinations and are not issued government licenses but are also included because the law specifically names them. Journalists, however, are not.

I asked him several times to clarify this and he was pretty sure of himself and the audience applauded. I reported this in my Jan. 28 column.

Several days later, however, Somera faxed me a letter thanking me for the opportunity accorded him by the Kapihan but "clarifying and/or rectifying some particular portions of the article which may have been erroneously made by this representation or inadvertently misquoted." Obviously Somera got a dressing down back at the office.

On the non-inclusion of journalists, he said:

"While journalists are not categorically listed in the law or regulation, the Commissioner, with the approval of the Secretary of Finance, may expand the definition of 'professionals' by way of interpretation and pursuant to his authority to interpret provisions of the Tax Code, to include others which may fall under the definition."

Well, did the commissioner include journalists in his definition? The BIR has not issued any press release, nor have I seen any, to this effect. If he had, was it approved by the secretary of finance? And what would be their excuse to include them? The VAT is a business tax for value added to the product. Writing is not a business, and what value, in the business sense, did the writer add to his writing? What about writers of fiction and poetry? Are they also classified as professionals who must pay the 10-percent VAT? Will the BIR please enlighten us on this?

Somera also said that:

"VAT paid by professionals cannot be deducted from their income tax. However, VAT paid by professionals in the purchase of the tools of their trade can be deducted or credited to their VAT output tax as and by way of input tax."

Between the paragraph starting with "The VAT paid by doctors, Somera said, is passed on to their patients..." and the paragraph starting with "The doctor doesn't have to pay any VAT for them..." a two-sentence paragraph was inadvertently omitted, thus confusing the meaning of that later paragraph.

The missing paragraph goes like this:

"A doctor commented that in the provinces doctors are paid with eggs, chicken, or vegetables. How can they share that with the BIR?"

Then follows that paragraph: "The doctor doesn't have to pay VAT for them, Somera replied. In the first place, he doesn't issue any receipt for them."

Still on the subject of missing paragraphs, this paragraph was missing in the Jan. 30 column ("COA audits show SSS, GSIS in financial distress"):

"6. To purchase EBC/PCIBank shares, the SSS disposed of such blue chip shares as FEBTC, Petron, Globe Telecom, Ayala Corporation, San Miguel Brewery, etc. which suggest a deliberate betrayal of the interest of the members. We (PARP) sued the SSS commissioners and top investment executives for this but the Ombudsman found no criminal liability."

The column the next day, Jan. 31, started with item No. 7.

* * *

On that column, a big portion of which dwelt on the P25-billion deficit of the GSIS as audited by the Commission on Audit, Nilo P. Racimo, vice president for public affairs of the GSIS, admitted that what was written was all correct. He does not dispute them. But he has some excuses and justifications for the financial mess in the GSIS. In fairness to the GSIS, I am quoting these excuses. Judge for yourself if they're justified or not.

On the Employee Loyalty Incentive Plan (ELIP) which gave retiring GSIS officials and employees double the gratuities granted to other GSIS members who retire:

"The ELIP was based on existing incentives and retirement scheme of other government financial institutions, including those of other government agencies. In fact, it was in line with a similar retirement program adopted by the Department of Budget and Management applicable to certain DBM employees. Since ELIP is neither unprecedented nor unique to the GSIS, it was approved by the GSIS Board of Trustees. *(Trustees are also beneficiaries of the said ELIP, a case of conflict of interest.—NHC)*

Racimo added that in fact, a state auditor wanted all the COA personnel assigned to the GSIS included in the availment of the ELIP 2000. *(Another conflict of interest.—NHC)*

More Tomorrow.

Calculations

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

JOKER Arroyo had something very interesting to say last week. In a press conference with Francis Pangilinan and Ralph Recto, he said the position we should take was to be neutral in the American war on Iraq. If strong countries like France and Germany would have no part in that war, he said, weak ones like the Philippines would be foolish to plunge headlong into it. There were no advantages to be gained from supporting the United States there. Thus far, he said—and this was the interesting part—all we've gotten by way of reward for backing the United States all out in its "war against terror" was to be listed among the countries Americans should not visit and to be warned that we would become a pariah in the world community if we failed to pass the money laundering law.

Good point, though rather belatedly recognized. You reckon the support for the US "war against terror" on the basis of pure calculation—which the warmongers in this country have been asking us to do—and you would be hard put to find the presumed economic and political advantages that go with it. All you'll find are promises of more aid, and token efforts to give the war veterans what has always been their due to begin with. And, as Joker rightly points out, advisories against the Philippines for being a magnet for terrorist attacks that its blanket endorsement of the "war against terror" precisely makes it. And warnings to toe the line on globalization.

You look at the history of this country, as I've been saying again and again, and you will find the recognition belated. You can't find a more monumental case of the thwarting of expectations, or downright betrayal, than what happened during the World War II. There's no bigger case of one people sacrificing themselves for another than what the Filipinos did for the Americans during the Japanese Occupation. They gave them aid and comfort, often hiding them from the Japanese under pain of imprisonment or death. All because of friendship.

Franklin Roosevelt vowed at the start of the War he would indemnify the Filipinos to the last carabao that they lost. What his successor did after the war was not just to rehabilitate Japan and Germany but to make rehabilitation funds for the Philippines conditional upon the approval of the notorious "parity rights." And to turn Filipinos, represented by Pancho Magalona, into comic relief in subsequent Hollywood war movies, if indeed they figured in them at all.

I've always said I couldn't understand why the rich and middle class couldn't understand the *masa's* adulation for Joseph Estrada when the fellow's concern for them was patently mythical. I couldn't understand that because the same thing is enshrined in our foreign policy—it is its very cornerstone—and they can't seem to see it. That is what our foreign policy is, one based on adulation for John Wayne, whom we take to be friend, patron and benefactor, but whose concern for the country is patently mythical. All Erap had to do was invoke "*Erap para sa mahirap*"—which was more than a slogan, it was a shibboleth—and his legions were willing to lay down their lives for him. All America has to do is invoke Bataan and Corregidor—which are more than places, they are a state of mind—and we are wiling to lay down our lives for it.

It's idiotic. You go by sheer calculation, what have we gained by fighting the Japanese for America? What have we gained by helping to fight the Koreans, the Vietnamese, the Chinese, the Russians and every other American enemy for America? What do we stand to gain by fighting the Iraqis for America? All we got in the past were one-sided treaties (parity rights for Americans, the US bases), cultural and political alienation from our Asian neighbors, and Ferdinand Marcos, who declared martial law with the support of Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger. All we're getting at present are more American troops, a reputation for being a terrorist haven, and a free advertisement for being money launderers and downright crooks.

What we'll get in the future is a horde of OFWs trekking home after having lost their jobs. If not indeed OFWs coming home in body bags from standing in the way of friendly and hostile fire. The friendly fire coming from the American smart bombs and the hostile one coming from equally smart terrorist ones are resentful of Filipino anti-Arab sentiment. Now that we stand on the brink of war, we hear voices in our midst warning that it will wreak havoc on our economy. But Jesus Christ, wasn't that obvious before? Wasn't that clear as day as far back as a year ago when Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo took that suicidal tack of going all out for the Americans? Even without a war on Iraq, that would have spelled doom for the future of Filipino overseas who work in Arab lands. Not to speak of the Filipinos themselves who have turned into objects of terrorist enmity.

GMA wants to do something for the OFWs, or indeed for every Filipino whether at home or abroad, she need not fly to Kuwait, or even Iraq itself, to show them she cares. She need only add her voice to the chorus of voices from all over the world—not least in the US, where the antiwar sentiment has now overtaken the prowar one—condemning George Bush's folly. She need only assure everyone she would do everything in her power to try to stop a war whose effects on this country cannot be more mind-boggling than if it lay in the line of fire itself. Can you imagine what would happen to this already desperate country if we lost our labor market in the Middle East? And all for a friend and patron that's far more fickle and untrustworthy than Erap. At least Erap makes us laugh.

That's just the part about rational calculation. We haven't even touched the moral aspect of it yet.

Alternatives

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE CAT is out of the bag—but rather prematurely.

Aside from redrawing the political map, one of the results of the withdrawal of President Macapagal-Arroyo from the 2004 presidential elections was that it cleared the field for the entry of dark horses.

One dark horse is Sen. Juan Flavier. The other is Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. My lament is that the news that certain groups have been working on either Flavier or Davide came too early. Those urging them to run were either too scared over the prospects of a movie actor becoming president or could not keep their moves secret. In politics, timing for staging political bids is important. If an announcement came too early, the project could peak too soon and lose steam.

Even before President Macapagal's withdrawal, I had considered "antidotes" to pseudo-populist and charismatic presidential candidates in the mold of deposed President Joseph Estrada. One of them was Senator Flavier. The projection of Flavier and Davide was pushed foreward because the Macapagal withdrawal created a vacuum in the center.

The latest public opinion survey, taken by the Social Weather Stations on Dec. 7-15, 2002, two weeks before the President's withdrawal, showed former Education Secretary Raul Roco leading a list of 10 people. He polled 24 percent, followed by Fernando Poe Jr., with 21 percent; Sen. Noli de Castro, 19 percent; and President Macapagal, 13 percent.

Although the ratings were clearly inconclusive (24 percent is far from being the forerunner of an avalanche) and did not indicate any trend, the 21 percent polled by Poe aggravated the nightmare of the middle class. Even at that time, I did not share the worries over Poe's mythical populist mass constituency. I had told several forums I had in mind counter-weapons against pseudo-populism, but I would reveal them at the proper time. The news that some groups were pushing Flavier and Davide jumped the gun on me.

No new surveys have been published after the President's retirement, but certainly her exit could only have changed the configurations of presidential possibilities—with new names added and old names dropping out. Even Roco's position in the early survey could be affected by Flavier's willingness for his name to be included in the surveys.

The losers from the Macapagal exit are Sen. Panfilo Lacson and Poe: Lacson's presidential candidacy rests on a fixed target—President Macapagal, whom he can lash with charges, no matter how reckless, of corruption and inability to maintain law and order. With President Macapagal out of the firing line, Lacson has to look for other issues and targets. Estrada die-hards, including Lacson, have lost straw creatures to bash.

I am not in a position to endorse Flavier. It's too early. But I wish to make the argument that Flavier is an antidote to pseudo-populism that is being offered by the Estrada model because he is a populist without trying hard to prove it. His record as health secretary proves this. He easily identifies with the poor and is easily accepted by them. He placed second to De Castro in the 2001 senatorial elections, running on the Lakas ticket. In the previous senatorial elections, he was on the top five. This speaks of his broad electoral constituency.

As a counterfoil to Poe, Flavier is a doctor of medicine; Poe's recent memory recall aside from being a movie idol is that he was at the forefront of protest by movie actors against the termination of their exemption from payment of value-added tax.

On this issue of populism, we have a clear choice between genuine and counterfeit populism.

Lacson is a confrontational person portraying himself as the man on horseback saving the nation from criminals. Flavier is a consensus-builder, so much so that during the impasse in the Senate in June last year, when the opposition tried to seize the Senate leadership and reorganize the committees, Flavier's name was mentioned as a compromise candidate to end the stand-off.

Davide has many outstanding qualities, including his sterling presidency of the impeachment trial of Estrada, that makes him an appealing candidate for the presidency and that has prompted well-meaning citizens to urge him to run for president. If he runs, his candidacy will raise the level of presidential debate and standards of credentials for the presidency. His opponents will have to raise the standards of the literacy and public service record of their candidate. But it is probably wrong timing for Davide to announce a decision soon. A good time is toward the end of the year. There are still cases involving the Estrada presidency pending with the Supreme Court or likely to be elevated to the Court and it is best not to politicize these cases.

As for Roco, he has to show in the next surveys that he is either holding his place or is gaining ground. He cannot be discounted, like Flavier and Davide, as credible alternatives to President Macapagal. Parties from which to stage a campaign should be no problem. Flavier has Lakas. But parties are always on the lookout for apparently winnable candidates whom they can embrace. By the last quarter or before the end of the year, the profiles of serious presidential contenders will crystallize. So will the issues.

To sum up, President Macapagal's withdawal opened the way for real alternatives set in a debate of issues. It rescued us from fears that ignorance will prevail in 2004.

Ratify the Kyoto Protocol!

COMMENTARY

Roberto C. Yap, S.J., Ph.D.
Institute on Church and Social Issues

CLIMATE change due to the greenhouse effect is one of the most serious concerns in the international environmental arena. A rapid rise in temperatures would lead to climate changes that could be devastating for many parts of the world. In tropical regions, for example, severe weather will likely become more of a problem as the patterns of floods, droughts, storms and precipitation are disrupted. In the Philippines, it is expected that our wet season will become wetter and our dry season drier. Aquatic and terrestrial environments will suffer, and biodiversity will be threatened. Human health and standards of living will be compromised in many ways by changes in water supplies, forestry, fisheries, flooding, vector-borne disease (e.g., malaria and dengue), and agricultural productivity. A concern for sustainable development over the longer term is undercut if flooding, disruption of food and water supplies and other problems caused by climatic changes, destroy the basic conditions needed for development.

The 1997 Kyoto Protocol, a milestone in global efforts to protect the environment and achieve sustainable development, marked the first time that governments of industrialized countries accepted legally binding constraints on their greenhouse gas emissions. The United States has explicitly repudiated the protocol because of the high costs of meeting its emissions reduction targets. However, it should be emphasized that the protocol does not impose any greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets on developing countries. Under the protocol, the Philippines has no ceilings on its emissions of greenhouse gases and thus faces no such costs for emissions mitigation.

The protocol also broke new ground with its innovative "cooperative mechanisms" aimed at cutting the cost of curbing these emissions. As it does not matter to the climate where emission reductions are achieved, sound economics argues for achieving them where they are least costly. The protocol therefore includes three market-based mechanisms aimed at achieving cost-effective reductions—Emissions Trading, Joint Implementation and the Clean Development Mechanism.

The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), contained in Article 12 of the Kyoto Protocol is the main aspect of the Protocol which has the most significant impact on developing countries. The primary benefit of Protocol ratification is that the Philippines will be able to avail of the opportunities offered by the CDM.

The CDM strives to promote sustainable development in developing countries, while allowing developed countries to contribute to the goal of reducing atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases. The CDM has the potential to assist developing countries in achieving sustainable development by promoting environmentally friendly investment from industrialized country governments and businesses. The CDM allows governments or private entities in industrialized countries to implement emission reduction projects in developing countries. The CDM could include projects in the following sectors: renewable energy, fuel switching, energy efficiency improvements, agriculture, industrial processes, afforestation and reforestation. The investors in CDM projects from industrialized countries will receive credit in the form of "certified emissions reductions" which they may count against their national reduction targets.

Most CDM projects will entail not only carbon reduction benefits, but also produce a wide range of environmental and social benefits within developing countries. Sustainable development benefits could include reductions in air and water pollution through reduced fossil fuel use, especially coal, but also extend to improved water availability, reduced soil erosion and protected biodiversity. For social benefits, many projects could create employment opportunities in target regions or income groups and promote local energy self-sufficiency.

If the Philippines will not ratify the Kyoto Protocol, it will not be able to take part in the CDM. Non-ratification means that the Philippines will miss out on international investments in cleaner technologies facilitated through the CDM. Non-ratification implies that the Philippines will not be a beneficiary of any of the funds channeled through CDM that could assist the country in reaching some of its economic, social, environmental and sustainable development objectives, such as reduced dependence on imported fossil fuels, cleaner air and water, improved land use, rural employment and development, and poverty alleviation.

On the other hand, ratification of the Kyoto Protocol will enable the Philippines to participate in the CDM. Through the CDM, the Philippines will be able to attract foreign investments for projects that assist in the shift to a more prosperous but less carbon-intensive economy and that facilitate the transfer of environmentally sustainable technologies. Moreover, the Philippines will be able to assist in the mitigation of human-induced climate change through global action to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.

Even with the myopic rejection of the United States, the Kyoto Protocol is expected to come into force very soon. The European Union, Japan and Canada have already ratified. Russia has recently announced that it will ratify and once it has done so, implementation of the Protocol and the CDM will commence.

As required by the Constitution, the Philippine Senate presently is considering whether it should concur in the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol. From the perspective of the Philippine national interest, there is only one sensible choice. We must ratify the Kyoto Protocol.

Bush budget raises deficit concerns

NEWS ANALYSIS

David Williams

> In its present form, [the budget] may provide too much stimulus just when the economy is already recovering, one economist said

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush's tax-cutting budget will likely jolt the sluggish economy but record deficits may be too high a price to pay, Democratic critics and some analysts said.

The Bush budget is almost certain to undergo vast revisions in Congress and the envisioned deficits are unlikely to crowd out private investment on the debt market, analysts said.

But in its present form, it may provide too much stimulus just when the economy is already recovering, one economist said. It also raised medium-term worries about the government's balance sheet.

"President Bush released his budget today, bringing record deficits and $1.6 trillion in new tax cuts geared toward the wealthy," said Democratic National Committee chair Terry McAuliffe.

"As our nation deals with the continuing threat of terrorism, a possible war in Iraq, and a sluggish economy, the White House budget is fiscally irresponsible and damaging," he said.

Besides the predictable political reaction, analysts also raised some concerns.

Tim O'Neill, Chicago-based chief US economist at Bank of Montreal, said most reasonable estimates suggested Bush's $672-billion stimulus package, a key part of the budget, would boost growth by about one percentage point, with most of the impact in the second half of the year.

"From the perspective of an economy that at this point appears still to be sputtering that would be a positive jolt," he said.

But O'Neill said he was already forecasting 3.0 to 3.5 percent growth in the first half of this calendar year, moving up to 4.0 to 4.5 percent growth in the second half.

"By the time the fiscal stimulus hits, it may be unnecessary," he said, predicting that a core feature of Bush's package—abolishing dividend taxes—would only really begin to affect spending in spring 2004.

"You end up then with too much too late," O'Neill warned. That would force the Federal Reserve to tighten interest rates faster than it would have otherwise.

Given the difficulties of forecasting budgets even for short periods ahead, it was impossible to be certain about how long the budget deficits would persist, he said.

"We were counting on the surpluses being generated being used to pay off the debt to provide some room for the large and looming contingent liabilities for social security and for Medicare," O'Neill said.

"If we don't return to a surplus position reasonably quickly over the next two-to-three years, that issue will loom even bigger." John Lonski, chief economist Moody's Investors Service, said the deficits presented little concern.

The budget deficit—$304 billion in fiscal 2003 and $307 billion in fiscal 2004—represented just 2.8 percent and 2.7 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), respectively.

That compared to an average deficit of 4.8 percent of GDP in the first two years of the previous economic recoveries: 1983-1984 and 1991-1992, Lonski said.

"Nobody is going out right now and making the argument that this is a bad thing because it is crowding out private investment spending," he said.

"If anything, you need the budget deficit because of the fiscal stimulus it should supply that could go far in helping to boost economic activity and further the repair of weakened corporate balance sheets." In any case, Lonski forecast, the abolition of dividend taxes would likely get watered down in the Senate.

Taxpayers for Common Sense (TCS), a national budget watchdog, warned that congressional "overspending" and the war in Iraq could lead to a deficit of $500 billion this year.

"I think there are faulty assumptions, simplistic forecasts. We really are spending our way into massive budget deficits in the next few years," said TCS spokesperson Keith Ashdown. *AFP*

To build a modern nation

COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

HONOLULU—After President Macapagal-Arroyo made her stunning announcement to stay away from the 2004 presidential election, many of my colleagues and students who read my previous commentary asked, "What will work for the Philippines?"

I had indicated in previous articles that ours is a failure of nation-building in the modern sense. Those of us who are in the business of analyzing Philippine politics and society never fail to mention that early in the postwar years, we were doing all right, and that the Philippines was second only to Japan in its potential to become a modern nation-state.

Even President Macapagal herself stressed this point and lamented the fact that "over the last decades, our republic has become one of the weakest, steadily left behind by its more progressive neighbors" in Asia. What went wrong? Various analyses have been put forward—from corruption to the lack of political will to the "damaged culture" syndrome to the effects of American imperialism, and so on. The common denominator of all these critiques is the failure of Filipino political leadership over time, alternately labeled corrupt or bankrupt, to forge a modern nation.

Since we always mention Japan, it is instructive to look into its experience with building a modern nation. I realize that it's not comparable with the Philippines, given our cultural and historical differences. But since the factor of political leadership is so crucial in confronting the challenges of modernization, the Japanese example is worth exploring, if only to remind ourselves that our leaders of successive administrations could have been more visionary, creative and dynamic.

The Meiji Restoration was a turning point in Japanese contemporary history. It provided a strong impetus to establish a national culture, a national ideology that fused traditional elements with the need to meet the changes brought about by the opening of Japan to the Western world. The Meiji leaders invested in the construction of a national identity, a broad national consensus that could stand up to the West. There was this constant drumming into the Japanese psyche by the leaders that the West must be surpassed. "Catch up with and surpass the West" was not just an empty slogan; it became a national obsession. In this regard, unlike other countries, Japan proved more flexible in accepting Western ideas and still surpass them. You could only do this by becoming a strong nation, and how did the Meiji leaders do this?

According to Takeshi Ishida, author of a book on Japanese political culture, when the Meiji leaders took measures to establish a centralized political system, the villages were incorporated as subunits within the prefectures that had replaced the old "han" (fief) as the administrative divisions of the central government. Based on these rural communities, "Meiji leaders built up a bureaucratic structure of government, which was a new element extensively introduced into Japan from the West." A Western legal system had also been installed and the Meiji leaders recruited personnel for the bureaucracy based on ability rather than family background. An examination system for civil officials was introduced in 1887. Selection was based on achievement rather than connections. The ensuing civil and military bureaucracies and business organizations formed indispensable elements in Japanese modern development. As a result, concludes Ishida, the leaders of the newly established government tried to link the center with traditional village communities, so that "the sense of unity and conformity could be extended to the national level." Conflict between local units, argues another Japanese scholar, could then be avoided by enlarging the in-group to absorb, and thus pacify, the conflicting parties. And education had to be reformed as well.

Such was the imaginative genius of the Meiji oligarchy. By definition, oligarchies are supposed to be reactionary and resistant to change. Not the Meiji leaders. They invested in the construction of a national politics that was inclusive rather than divisive, making for a fusion of traditional social structures and modernizing norms as Japan marched toward economic progress and political stability. The leaders used the villagers' strong sense of solidarity as a means to elevate conformity to a national scale. This solidarity in the isolated rural areas, which was partly based on blood ties, was expanded to encompass the whole nation, according to Ishida. A very strong sense of "being Japanese" ensued. The skillful integration of in-group loyalties in the outlying areas of the country with the introduction of a modern value system, which introduced norms like competition, largely explains Japan's success in nationbuiding. You have to build institutions that are dynamic and ready to respond to change.

By contrast, what did our Filipino leaders do from generation to generation? They remained reactionary and resistant to long-range changes. They did not attempt to construct a broad national identity that would have incorporated the very fragmentary nature of social structure. Instead of inclusion and integration, the political leadership exacerbated the deep divisions in the society wrought by centuries of colonial rule. Minorities became the enemy to be vanquished. Mindanao became a dumping ground for rehabilitated insurgents; migratory hordes from the north were allowed into the area, driving indigenous populations deeper into the hinterland. Land reform programs were thwarted with impunity by the landed elites. Tribal areas became fair game for rampaging developers. The list is endless. In just about all these continuing excesses of the forces of power, the political leadership was either in cahoots or did nothing.

And now we wonder why among the modern nations of the world today, we still have these active insurgencies and violent acts of resistance that have long been resolved by others. "Too much politics" is the standard excuse. Since the political leadership is so hopeless, argues one of my colleagues, solutions must be found elsewhere. Some put their hopes on civil society, which has been a vibrant element in the Philippines for some decades now. The big question is, will it provide the impetus for our own version of a Meiji restoration that will begin to build a real nation at last?

Belinda A. Aquino is a professor of Political Science and Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa where she is also director of the Center for Philippine Studies.

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Why color-coding scheme should be scrapped

ONE of the most appreciated pronouncements made by MMDA chair Bayani Fernando upon his confirmation was about his intention to scrap the color-coding scheme which has not really made a dent in the campaign to reduce traffic congestion in Metro Manila.

I submit that it's time we scrapped this scheme because:

One, it has not lived up to its hype of significantly reducing the traffic mess. Even the Metro Manila Development Authority's own studies showed that only a measly 4.5 percent reduction was attributed to this program.

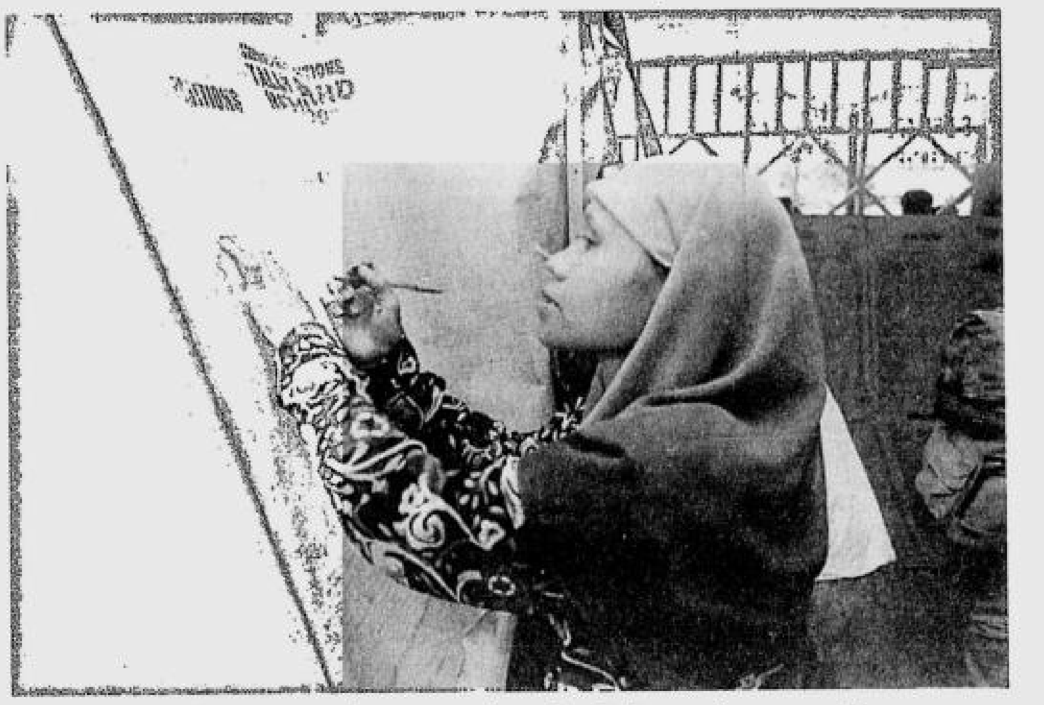
Two, it has only further highlighted the great divide between the rich who can afford to have more than one car and thus effectively enjoy an "automatic exemption" from the ban, and the working class who can only afford at best one car, often paid for through the nose. This scheme is in effect an illegal detention without trial of every affected motorist at least 12 hours a week!

Three, it has only given some unscrupulous MMDA personnel and traffic enforcers a way to make regular extra money either from those who want exemption from the ban and those who get caught either because they woke up late, wanted to pick up their kids after school or just plain forgot that they live in Metro Manila.

The three-week suspension of the scheme is even made more ridiculous because it does not cover Makati City! How can you expect people who work in Ayala Center, for instance, to fly to Edsa so they can enjoy the break?

Still, if it's really needed, I am willing to continue making the sacrifice provided the politicians—starting with Mayor Jejomar Binay—won't be allowed to use more than one car and not issued special car plates. In the first place, these people are supposed to be "public servants" and not royalty!

—**ED DAMES**,
23 Bagong Anyo St.,
De Castro Sub., Sta. Lucia,
Pasig City



Land title claims already processed

THIS refers to the news item titled "Old farmers picket DENR office, want land titles before they die" that came out in the Jan. 8, 2003 issue of the INQUIRER.

The land being claimed by the Maquiapo farmers covers 18 lots which are parts of a vast tract of land commonly known as the "Morales Layug Estate" located in Maquiapo, Guagua, Pampanga. The estate covers a total area of 52.72 hectares in 98 lots. It was placed under land reform in 1973, after which several controversies between the farmers and the alleged owners rose over emancipation patents, ejectment and payment of lease rentals. These cases were filed with the Provincial Agrarian Reform Adjudication Board (Parab).

In 1998, the Department of Agrarian Reform passed on jurisdiction over the land to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for disposition in accordance with the Public Land Act. From 1973 to 1998 no emancipation patents were issued to the farmers. Neither did anyone among them file public land applications with the DENR considering that the land was within the jurisdiction of the DAR.

The farmers filed 72 public land applications covering 18 lots containing a total area of 35.85 hectares only in mid 2000. All these applications were processed, except for one that was found defective. The processing, however, was again stopped when the heirs of Abelardo Morales, represented by Federica Morales Serrano, and other persons filed a protest against these applications with the regional office. The protest was decided on July 3, 2002 in favor of the farmer-applicants and on Sept. 18, 2002, the regional executive director issued a Certificate of Finality of the Decision.

Sixty applications were processed and are now ready for final review by the land management division of the DENR in Region 3. The remaining 11 applications are still pending in view of the motion for reconsideration filed with the legal services division of the DENR-Region 3.

The applicants affected by the motion for reconsideration picketed the DENR-Region 3. The applicants whose applications were already processed joined the group in sympathy.

Regional Executive Director Leonardo Sibbaluca met with the farmers on Jan. 16, 2003 and informed them that there was no unfair treatment in the processing of the applications.

—**ELISEA D. GOZUN, secretary,**
Department of Environment and
Natural Resources, Visayas
Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

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Cleanup of voters' lists vital to holding clean polls

THE "COMPUTERIZED ELECTIONS" referred to in Rina-Jimenez-David's column last Jan. 29 is actually only the automated counting of votes. It could reduce the problem of *"dagdag-bawas"* if the Comelec representatives in the town and cities diligently perform their duties and responsibilities, which is a big if. But it does not eliminate the problem of padded or tampered voters' lists and flying voters, which to me is the bigger problem.

As a poll-watching volunteer of the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting in many elections, I find the actual voting and counting of votes at the precinct level fairly aboveboard, if not for the never-ending problem of voters not finding their names on the voters' lists in their precinct or finding them only after a long search on another precinct. This has discouraged many bona fide voters from voting.

This is where the government and the Comelec should concentrate their efforts and money because this is where the cheating really is. The automated counting will only count faster thousands of fraudulent votes in the ballot boxes minus what would have been votes of thousands of bona fide voters who went home because they could not find their names on the voters' lists.

Flying voters are hard to detect because their names are on the voters' lists due to connivance with or negligence of the local election officer. How can you identify a flying voter unless you challenge every one whose name appears on the list? The VRIS would have solved the problem of flying voters and padded or tampered voters' lists but that's another story.

So what will the automated counting do? Garbage in, garbage out. Automated counting was pilot-tested in the ARMM elections but can anybody truly say that the elections there were clean? The cheaters will, I guess.

Is putting up counting machines really something to be excited about? Only those selling them and their supporters will surely be excited. This is why I cannot help but think that maybe those pushing for an automated counting might have some hidden agenda.

—**CARMELO S. DOROTHEO,**
4548 Clover Road,
Sun Valley Subd., Parañaque City

SSS can't act on anonymous member's complaint

THIS is regarding the complaint of a Social Security Service member published on Jan. 22, 2003. According to him, he was not informed by the SSS about the status of his complaint of non-remittance by his employer of his contributions.

As much as we would like to verify the circumstances surrounding this case, we cannot do so unless we know the member's name, his SSS number and the name and address of his employer. We advice him to write to our department so that we can help in facilitating the resolution of his problem.

We are also interested to know when and in what branch the SSS member experienced alleged discourtesy from our staff so that we can investigate the matter and prevent similar incidents from happening again.

—**SIGREDO M. IBAY,**
officer in charge, Media Affairs,
Social Security System,
East Avenue, Diliman,
Quezon City

Distorted reports

WE are shocked with disbelief at the news articles last Jan. 19, 2003 titled, "Groups intensify protest vs mining firm" and on Jan. 22 titled "B'laan folk reject mining royalty" written by Aquiles Z. Zonio.

What is written there is inaccurate and gross omission of facts that gives us a distorted picture of the present reality in Tampakan and its adjacent municipality relative to the Tampakan Copper Project. I am attaching the two manifestos of support of all the four B'laan chieftains (including Dalina Samling) and five barangay captains who are the leaders of direct stakeholders of the Tampakan Copper Project. The manifestos were presented during the Fles Gamu (welcome) Festivities attended by no less than 1,000 participants representing the stakeholders of the project, including those from Columbio, Sultan Kudarat and Kiblawan of Davao del Sur. Three of the four tribal chieftains were present all throughout the festivities last Jan. 17. Danlag chieftain Dalina Samling was represented by Luz, her aide and confidante.

—**CLAUDIUS G. BARROSO, CPA,**
mayor, Tampakan,
South Cotabato

THIS refers to the letter of Mayor Claudius G. Barroso last Jan. 22 claiming that the reports contained in my articles (banner stories on Jan. 19 and 24 of the Across the Nation section) were mere "distortions and gross omission of facts."

Most, if not all of the news items, which came out in the tri-media the day after the relaunching ceremony of Tampakan Mining, were critical of the project.

Gross omission of facts? To some extent, I would admit I did omit some facts. I didn't mention in both articles that municipal administrator Roberto Y. Barroso Jr., a close relative of the mayor, is one of the stockholders of Sagittarius Mines.

Sagittarius Mines is among the member-companies of the Tampakan Group of Companies (TGC), which is now known as Tampakan Mining Resource Corp. (TMRC).

I could not simply put all the facts in the story due to space constraints. Anyway it is a running story. The members of the media in South Cotabato and General Santos are closely watching any development in the area to protect the rights of the affected B'laan tribe and the environment.

The relaunching was held in time for the culmination activities of the town's 33rd foundation anniversary. Naturally, lots of people showed up.

But the presence of the indigenous people from as far as Columbio, Sultan Kudarat and Kiblawan, Davao del Sur was something unusual. Then, this unusual event became comprehensible when mining officials distributed about P7 million in cash grants to the tribal groups.

On the statements of support given by the tribal chieftains, well, the good mayor failed to mention that most, if not all of them, could neither read nor write.

—**AQUILES Z. ZONIO,**
PDI correspondent,
Socsksargen

PMP wants a constitutional convention

THIS is to call your attention to the full-page advertisement that appeared in your Jan. 28 issue supposedly put out by a group calling itself Coalition for Constitutional Change Now, which wants Congress to transform itself into constituent assembly to amend the Constitution.

One of the signatories in that advertisement was a certain Atty. Ariel Joseph Arias allegedly of Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino.

As PMP secretary general, I wish to inform the public that we have no official by that name. Neither did the PMP authorize anybody to represent the party in joining this noisy call by some congressmen to change the Charter via the short route and in the process give them a three-year extension of their terms of office.

As President Joseph Estrada has said time and again, the PMP remains firm in its call for a constitutional convention after the 2004 election to changing the Constitution, giving special emphasis to its economic provisions. Any change in our Constitution should be for the benefit of the masses and our people and not to promote the political and narrow interests of the elite.

—**ANGELITO BANAYO,**
secretary general,
Partido ng Masang Pilipino,
409 Shaw Boulevard,
Mandaluyong City

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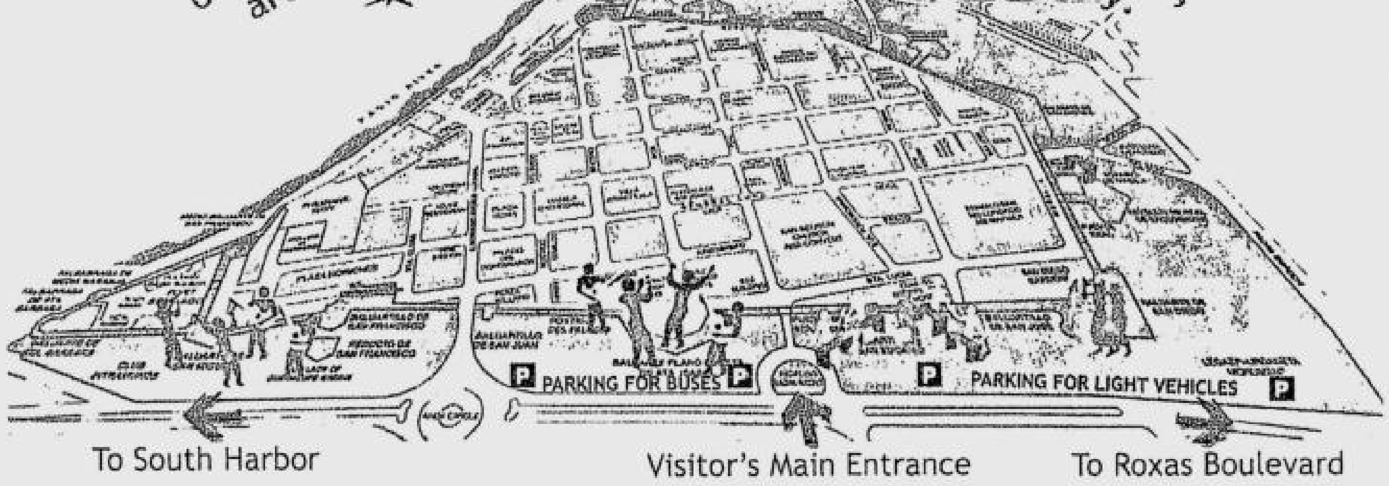

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Best of the Regions
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DAILY EVENTS

10am-10pm	Southern Tagalog Goes WOW The Best of Arts and Crafts Fair Clamshell I (Pueblo Pilipino) Palarong Pinoy (Exhibition of Indigenous Games) c/o Philippine Indigenous Games and Sports Savers Association, Inc. (PIGSSAI) Plaza San Ignacio
2pm	Photo Exhibit featuring Hemudo/A Day in Lhasa Bahay Tsinoy
4pm	Painting Demo (Rizal) Real Street (Artist Row) Pangkat Kawayan Clamshell I (Pueblo Pilipino)
4-10pm	Street Performers (Jugglers, artist, magicians, etc.) Gen. Luna St.
5pm	Serenatas Plaza San Ignacio
7pm	Tapas Row Gen. Luna St.

TUESDAYS, WEDNESDAYS AND THURSDAYS

5:30-9pm	Acoustic Evenings by San Miguel Corporation Cuartel de Sta. Lucia

FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS

9pm	Fireworks Display Along the Walls

Wed February 5

10am	Craft Demonstrations: Paete Papier Mache Making, Fruit and Vegetable Carving and Woodcarving Casa Tagala (Pueblo Pilipino)
4pm	Pangkat Kawayan Clamshell I (Pueblo Pilipino)
5pm	Grand Parade The Best of Festivals of Southern Tagalog Pueblo Pilipino
7-9pm	Onstage: The San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra and The San Miguel Master Chorale (sponsored by San Miguel Corp.) Baluarte Plano Luneta de Sta. Isabel
9pm	Grand Fireworks Display

Thu February 6

10am	Craft Demonstrations: Wood Shaving (Pakil, Laguna) Suman-wrapping (Rizal) Casa Tagala (Pueblo Pilipino)
6pm	Charcoal/Oil Painting Demo (Pakil, Laguna) Real Street (Artists Row)
7pm	Rene Villanueva in Retrospect Rajah Sulayman Theatre, Fort Santiago
7-9pm	Woodwind Quintet Baluarte Plano Luneta de Sta. Isabel
8pm	Onstage: Cavite Ballet Festival Baluarte Plano Luneta de Sta. Isabel

Fri February 7

10-11am	Onstage: Philippine Air Force Band Clamshell I (Pueblo Pilipino)
4pm	Orville Tiamson Painting Demo Real Street (Artists Row)
4pm	Onstage: Senakulo ng Cainta Clamshell I (Pueblo Pilipino)
5pm	Sikaran Arnis Exhibition (Rizal) Plaza San Ignacio
6pm	Onstage: Philippine High School for the Arts Cultural Group (Laguna) Clamshell I (Pueblo Pilipino)
6pm	Film Showing of "Agila" NCCA Auditorium
6-9pm	Sidemen Jazz Ensemble Cuartel de Sta. Lucia
7pm	Onstage: Dazzling Magic by Former Batangas Gov. Tony Leviste Clamshell I (Pueblo Pilipino)
7:30pm	Onstage: Nasugbu Chorale (Batangas) Clamshell I (Pueblo Pilipino
8-12pm	Onstage: Eddie Katindig & Jewelmer Jazz Band Baluarte Plano Luneta de Sta. Isabel

Sat February 8

10am	Craft Demonstrations: Kiping-making (Quezon) Embroidery (Taal, Batangas) Casa Tagala (Pueblo Pilipino)
4pm	Indigenous Games: Patintero, Sungka, Bunong-braso, Tumbang-preso, Sabong Tagayan ng Lambanog Plaza San Ignacio
4pm	Jimmy Vista Painting Demo (Rizal) Real Street (Artists Row)
6pm	Onstage: Taytay Cultural Group Clamshell I (Pueblo Pilipino)
6pm	Concert Night at the Old Walls c/o NCCA Onstage: John Lesaca, Rachelle Gerodias, Jonathan Coo and Jco Razon Baluarte Plano Luneta de Sta. Isabel
6-7pm	UP Los Baños Dance Troupe Cuartel de Sta. Lucia
6-7pm	Onstage: PPO Brass Quintet Puerta de Sta. Lucia
7pm	Onstage: Tanauan City Musical Guild Clamshell I (Pueblo Pilipino)
7pm	Rene Villanueva in Retrospect Rajah Sulayman Theatre, Fort Santiago
7-8pm	Celso Espejo Rondalla of Las Pinas Baluarte Plano Luneta de Sta. Isabel
7-9pm	Cuatros Guitarras Cuartel de Sta. Lucia
8-12mn	Real Groove Band Baluarte Plano Luneta de Sta. Isabel

Sun February 9

10am	Craft Demonstrations: Lumban Embroidery (Laguna) Kiping-making (Quezon) Casa Tagala (Pueblo Pilipino)
4pm	Sabong (San Jose, Batangas) Indigenous Games: Patintero, Sungka, Bunong-braso, Tumbang-preso, Tagayan ng Lambanog Plaza San Ignacio
5pm	Onstage: Angono National High School "Sa Ugoy ng Duyan" (Rizal) Clamshell I (Pueblo Pilipino)
6-7pm	PPO Woodwind Quintet Cuartel de Sta. Lucia
7pm	Onstage: Palawan Capitol Cultural Troupe, Pangkat Kalinangan, Sinika, Pagdiwata Festival Clamshell I (Pueblo Pilipino)
7pm	Firewalkers of Alfonso (Cavite) Plaza San Ignacio
7-8pm	Onstage: Musikito: Ang Batang Musiko Baluarte Plano Luneta de Sta. Isabel
7-9pm	Sidemen Jazz Ensemble Cuartel de Sta. Lucia
8pm	Onstage: Sining Kumintang Clamshell I (Pueblo Pilipino)
8-9pm	Bayanihan The National Dance Company of the Philippines Baluarte Plano Luneta de Sta. Isabel

Tue February 11

10am	Craft Demonstrations: Habihan and Woodcarving of Maragondon (Cavite) Kaluskos Art Demo (Rizal) Casa Tagala (Pueblo Pilipino)
6pm	Onstage: Palawan Capitol Cultural Troupe, Pangkat Kalinangan, Sinika of Palawan, Pagdiwata Festival Clamshell I (Pueblo Pilipino)
6-7pm	Onstage: PPO Mixed Quintet Baluarte Plano Luneta de Sta. Isabel

Wed February 12

10am	Craft Demonstrations: Habihan and Woodcarving of Maragondon (Cavite) Casa Tagala (Pueblo Pilipino)
4pm	Onstage: Binangonan Cultural Troupe Clamshell I (Pueblo Pilipino)
5pm	Onstage: Teatro Baile de Cavite Imus Pitch Choir, Tagaytay City National High School Dance Troupe Clamshell I (Pueblo Pilipino)
6-8pm	Onstage: PPO Percussion Quintet & MAPUA Concert Singers Baluarte Plano Luneta de Sta. Isabel
7pm	Onstage: Palawan Capitol Cultural Troupe, Pangkat Kalinangan, Sinika of Palawan, Pagdiwata Festival Clamshell I (Pueblo Pilipino)

Thu February 13

5pm	Onstage: Tariki Dance Troupe Clamshell I (Pueblo Pilipino)
6pm	Onstage: Teatro Baile de Cavite, Imus Pitch Choir, Tagaytay City National High School Dance Troupe (Cavite) Plaza San Ignacio
6-8pm	PPO Brass Quintet & Joey Ayala and Friends Baluarte Plano Luneta de Sta. Isabe
7pm	Onstage: Palawan Capitol Cultural Troupe, Pangkat Kalinangan, Sinika of Palawan, Pagdiwata Festival Clamshell I (Pueblo Pilipino)
7pm	Rene Villanueva in Retrospect Rajah Sulayman Theatre, Fort Santiago

Fri February 14

4pm	Sabong (Cuenca, Batangas) Plaza San Ignacio
4pm	Nemiranda Painting Demo (Rizal) Real Street (Artist Row)
5pm	Onstage: Antipolo Immaculate High School Plaza San Ignacio
6pm	Onstage: Lahing Batangan Dance Troupe Clamshell I (Pueblo Pilipino)
6pm	WOW Philippines Show (sponsored by WG & A Superferry Baluarte Plano Luneta de Sta. Isab
6pm	Araw ng Pag-ibig/Film Showing of "Maalaala Mo Kaya" NCCA Auditorium
6-7pm	PPO String Quintet Cuartel de Sta. Lucia
7pm	Onstage: Teatro Baile de Cavite Clamshell I (Pueblo Pilipino)
7pm	Rene Villanueva in Retrospect Rajah Sulayman Theatre, Fort Santiago
7-8pm	Philippine Male Chorale Baluarte Plano Luneta de Sta. Isab
7-9pm	Cuatros Guitarras Cuartel de Sta. Lucia
8-12mn	Retro Dance Band Baluarte Plano Luneta de Sta. Isab

Sat February 15

10am	Craft Demonstrations: Buntal, hat and bird-making (Quezon) Casa Tagala (Pueblo Pilipino)
4pm	Indigenous Games: Patintero, Sungka, Bunong-braso, Tumbang-preso, Sabong, Tagayan ng Lambanog Plaza San Ignacio
5pm	Haranista ng Laguna Plaza San Ignacio
5pm	Sikaran Arnis Exhibition (Rizal) Baluarte Plano Luneta de Sta. Isabel
6pm	Concert Night at the Old Walls c/o NCCA Onstage: VOX Manila Post Valentine Concert Baluarte Plano Luneta de Sta. Isabel
6-9pm	Cuatros Guitarras Cuartel de Sta. Lucia
7pm	Onstage: Grand Harana (Sta. Teresita and San Juan, Batangas) Clamshell I (Pueblo Pilipino)
7pm	Rene Villanueva in Retrospect Rajah Sulayman Theatre, Fort Santiago
7-8pm	Onstage: Musikito; Ang Batang Musiko Baluarte Plano Luneta de Sta. Isab
8-12mn	Onstage: "Route 6" Baluarte Plano Luneta de Sta. Isabel

Sun February 16

10am	Craft Demonstrations: Buntal, hat and bird-making (Quezon) Pottery-making (Calamba City, Laguna) Casa Tagala (Pueblo Pilipino)
4pm	Indigenous Games: Patintero, Sungka, Bunong-braso, Tumbang-preso, Sabong, Tagayan ng Lambanog Plaza San Ignacio
6pm	Onstage: Quartet Calambenos Professional Musicians Clamshell I (Pueblo Pilipino)
6-7pm	UP Singing Ambassadors Baluarte Plano Luneta de Sta. Isa
6-9pm	Legato Strings Cuartel de Sta. Lucia
7:30-9pm	Cultural Show (c/o PEEI Baluarte Plano Luneta de Sta. Isa

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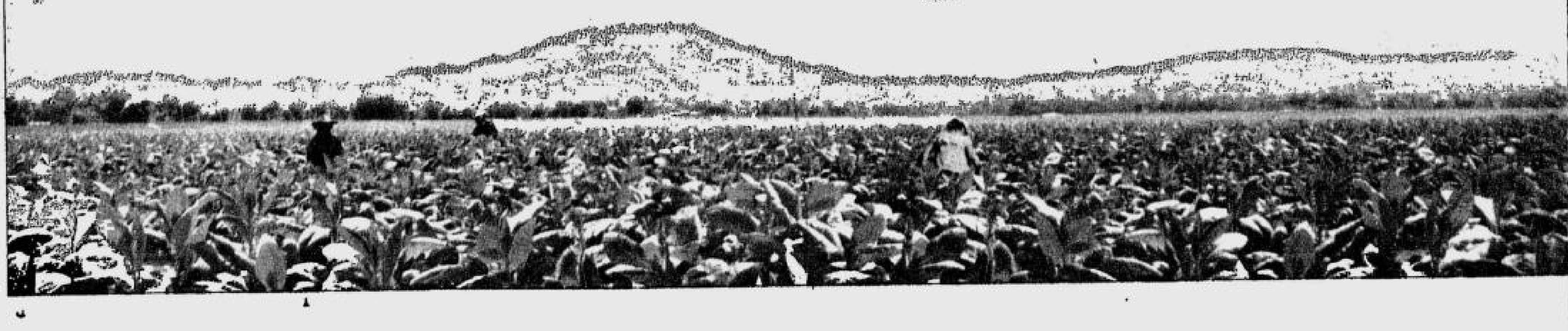

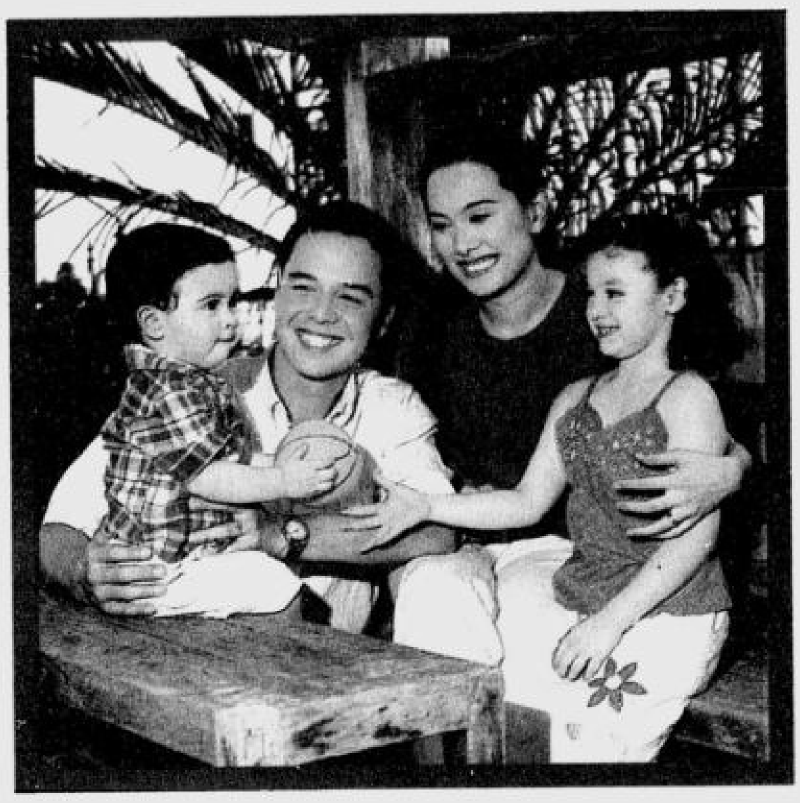

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

W. House was warned shuttle not safe

WASHINGTON—A former National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) safety official wrote to US President George W. Bush last year to warn of "another catastrophic space shuttle accident," but Bush did not see the letter and the writer's plea was rejected, the White House said on Monday.

Columbia broke up on Saturday as it began to reenter the atmosphere over Texas, shortly before it was to land.

White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer said Bush had not seen the letter written to him on Aug. 25, 2002, by former Nasa safety engineer Don Nelson expressing concerns over shuttle safety. "Your intervention is required to prevent another catastrophic space shuttle accident," Nelson said.

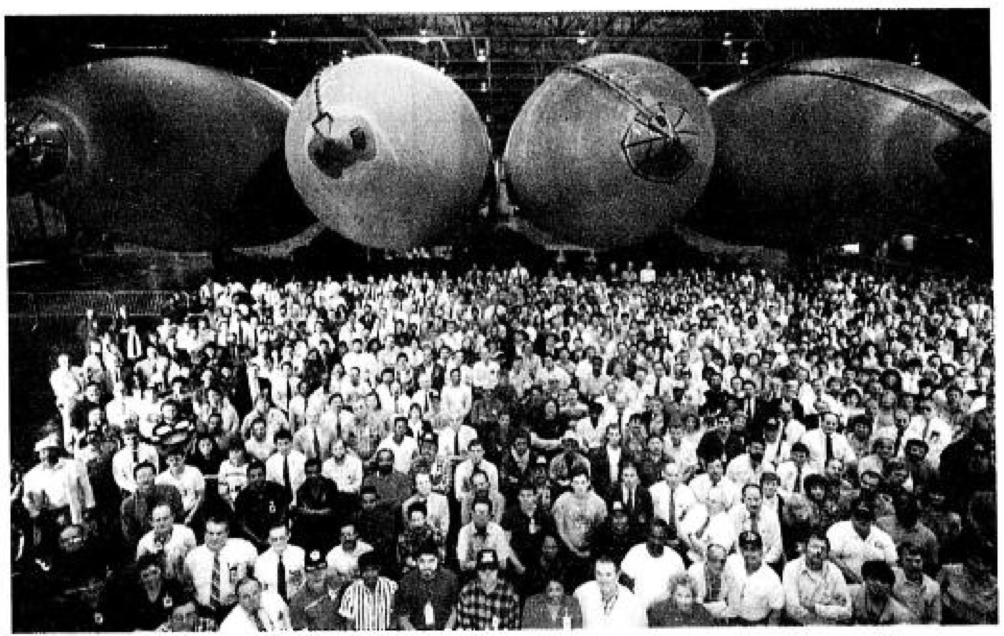
He cited specific safety incidents including a 2000 inspection of Columbia which found 3,500 wiring defects, as well as charges such as a July 2002 inspector general's report that the shuttle safety program was not properly managed.

"The lives of our astronauts and the future of our space program must not be ignored," he said. He urged Bush to limit the size of the shuttle's crew to four until an escape pod was built.

White House science adviser John Marburger wrote back to Nelson on Dec. 4, saying his office had discussed the concerns with Nasa officials. "Nasa places a high priority on safety and has instituted a program of developing and implementing safety upgrades to reduce the risk to space shuttle crews," he said.

"Based on these discussions I do not think that it is appropriate for the president to issue a moratorium on space shuttle launches at this time." Fleischer said on Sunday that an escape pod would not have saved Columbia's astronauts.

Bush received a briefing on Monday from Nasa administrator Sean O'Keefe on the investigation into the Columbia disaster and the two spoke of their determination to return to space. *Reuters*



MORE than 500 employees at the Lockheed Martin Michoud Assembly Center pose in front of four completed space shuttle external fuel tanks awaiting shipment to the Kennedy Space Center in this 1990 photo in New Orleans. The external fuel tank that launched the space shuttle Columbia, a focus of the investigation into Saturday's disaster, was a type that was being phased out and used insulation that had flaked off on a prior mission. AP

Many clues, but probe may move quickly

WASHINGTON—Investigators Monday were poring over hundreds of flight data transmissions from the space shuttle Columbia, looking for the "missing link" that would tell why it broke apart.

"We've made significant progress from Saturday to today," shuttle program manager Ron Dittemore said.

"That missing link is out there, we just need to be persistent and go find it."

After the space shuttle Challenger exploded in 1986, investigators finished their work in only four months, but the shuttles were grounded for 32 months as engineers firmed up the "O-ring" seals in the rocket booster joints.

For Columbia, which disintegrated into flaming debris early Saturday, killing all seven astronauts aboard, the investigation could move faster.

After photographs and video of the accident, the first resource for investigators will be the flight data transmitted from the shuttle in the moments before it disintegrated.

The shuttle had two voice recorders, which were not kept in protective cases and have most likely burned up.

But Nasa engineers have remote control over almost everything that happens onboard the shuttle: flight systems, electrical systems, oxygen and pressure controls.

They even have data on the astronaut's bodies, such as their heartbeat and blood pressure.

Data has already shown investigators that the left side of the shuttle had overheated, and that the shuttle had banked to the left, possibly indicating a loss of some of the ceramic tiles that form its heat shield. *AFP*

Nasa's 'best and brightest' may have been wrong about tiles

By Marcia Dunn

SPACE CENTER, Houston—Nasa acknowledged that its "best and brightest" minds may have gotten it wrong when they concluded in a report four days before Columbia disintegrated that a flying, 1-kg chunk of insulation did no serious damage to the shuttle's thermal tiles during liftoff.

Shuttle program manager Ron Dittemore said Monday the agency. will redo the entire analysis from scratch.

"We want to know if we made any mistakes," he said.

Practically from the start, investigators have focused on the possibility that a 20-inch piece of foam insulation that fell off the shuttle's big external fuel tank during liftoff Jan. 16 doomed the spacecraft by damaging the heat tiles that keep the ship from burning up during reentry into the atmosphere.

While Columbia was still in orbit, Nasa engineers analyzed launch footage frame-by-frame and were unable to determine for certain whether the shuttle was damaged. But they ran computer analyses for different scenarios and different assumptions about the weight of the foam, its speed, and where under the left wing it might have hit, even looking at the possibility of tiles missing over an area of about 7 inches by 30 inches, Nasa said.

The half-page engineering report—issued on Day 12 of the 16-day flight—indicated "the potential for a large damage area to the tile." But the analyses showed "no burn-through and no safety-of-flight issue," the report concluded, according to a copy released by Nasa on Monday.

High-level officials at Nasa said they agreed at the time with the engineers' assessment.

"We were in complete concurrence," Michael Kostelnik, a Nasa spaceflight office deputy, said at a news conference Monday with Nasa's top spaceflight official, William Readdy.

"The best and brightest engineers we have who helped design and build this system looked carefully at all the analysis and the information we had at this time, and made a determination this was not a safety-of-flight issue."

The analyses spanned a week and no one on the team, to Dittemore's knowledge, had any reservations about the conclusions and no one reported any concerns to a Nasa hotline set up for just such occasions.

"Now I am aware, here two days later, that there have been some reservations expressed by certain individuals and it goes back in time," Dittemore said. "So we're reviewing those reservations again as part of our data base. They weren't part of our playbook at the time because they didn't surface. They didn't come forward."

On Monday, Readdy said the damage done by the broken-off piece of insulation is now being looked at very carefully as a possible cause of the tragedy.

"Although that may, in fact, wind up being the cause—it may certainly be the leading candidate right now—we have to go through all the evidence and then rule things out very methodically in order to arrive at the cause," he said.

On Monday night, searchers said they found the nose cone of the space shuttle Columbia buried deep in a thick pine forest near the Louisiana border.

"It's reasonably intact," said Warren Zehner, a senior coordinator for the Environmental Protection Agency, which is overseeing collection of shuttle debris. *AP*

24 US bombers ordered to prepare to beef up Korea military presence

WASHINGTON—Two dozen B-52 and B-1 bombers have been ordered to prepare to deploy to the western Pacific to back up US forces in South Korea as the US military mobilizes for war in the Gulf, a Pentagon official said Monday.

Twelve B-52 bombers and an equal number of B-1 bombers were being prepared to move to Guam, the official said, adding that no decision had yet been taken to send them. The orders involve about 2,000 air force personnel, the official said.

They followed a request by the commander of US forces in the Pacific, Admiral Thomas Fargo, for additional forces to deter North Korea at a time when the United States is engaged in a showdown with Iraq, the official said.

"You always want to send the message: don't underestimate us," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. "So he (Fargo) came in with additional requests for forces which would show Korea that though we are focused on Iraq, don't think this is the moment to do something."

"Some forces have been put on 'prepare to move,' including the bombers and ISR (intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance)," the official said.

The official would not say what intelligence, surveillance or reconnaissance forces were tapped.

US defense officials report no unusual military preparations by North Korea, but there is mounting US concern over North Korean moves to revive its nuclear weapons program.

Some US intelligence analysts have concluded that North Korea has begun moving fuel rods at its Yongbyon nuclear reactor complex, sharply raising the risks that Pyongyang is intent on producing nuclear weapons.

"The President thinks that this can be handled through diplomatic means," said White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer, but "we have contingencies all around the world and we always make certain that our contingencies are viable." Meanwhile, US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld met for 45 minutes with a special envoy of South Korea's President-elect Roh Moo-Hyun, who rode a wave of anti-American sentiment to victory in elections last month.

"They talked about the future of the alliance and the need to build a strong relationship in the future, including updating and modernizing the alliance," said Lieutenant Commander Jeff Davis, a Pentagon spokesperson, of the meeting between Rumsfeld and the envoy, Chyng Dai-Chul.

The Pentagon has been quietly looking at revamping its force structure in South Korea where the 37,000 US troops have been a magnet for protest, according to Pentagon officials.

"They also discussed North Korea and the need to continue working closely together toward a peaceful solution," Davis said.

Chyung also is to meet Secretary of State Colin Powell and hoped to see President George W. Bush during the three-day visit.

Chyung, who is carrying a letter from Roh calls for a peaceful solution to the standoff, has said he would argue against imposing sanctions against North Korea, which Pyongyang has said it would regard as an act of war.

Washington, on the other hand, has pushed for the issue to be taken up by the UN Security Council, which could impose sanctions. The International Atomic Energy Agency has decided to meet to discuss whether to refer the matter to the Security Council. *AFP*

A MEMBER of the Thai media walks along a totally burnt out corridor inside the burnt out Thai embassy in Phnom Penh, Feb. 4. AFP

Africa leaders hit female circumcision

ADDIS ABABA—African leaders and international organizations begin a three-day conference Tuesday in the Ethiopian capital to declare "zero tolerance" of the widespread practice of female genital mutilation.

The conference, also to be attended by African first ladies, intends to declare Thursday a "World Day for zero tolerance for female genital mutilation," said the Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices (IAC), the organizer of the conference.

As many as an estimated 140 million of the world's girls and women have undergone genital mutilation (FGM), also called female circumcision or excision, according to the UN's World Health Organization.

Every year some two million girls are at risk of undergoing the practice, which involves removing all or part of the external genitalia, especially in Africa, where it is done in some 28 countries.

A deeply rooted cultural tradition intended in part to preserve a woman's chastity, FGM is usually carried out without the aid of anesthesia, often causes medical complications and even sometimes leads to death.

"Female Genital Mutilation is the most widespread and deadly of all (forms) of violence against African girls and women," the IAC's honorary ambassador on FGM, Chantal Compaore, the wife of Burkina Faso President Blaise Compaore, recently said.

Despite education campaigns and laws against FGM in some countries, the practice persists, with nearly all women undergoing the procedure in countries such as Somalia, Djibouti and Sudan.

The IAC called on the African Union to include issues such as FGM as part of its new initiative, the New Economic Partnership for Africa's Development (Nepad), where African countries are to review each other and recommend best practices to help boost the continent out of poverty.

The conference, also to be attended by representatives of the African Union and the UN Economic Commission for Africa, intends to draft a working plan to intensify activities to put an end to the practice. *AFP*

Cambodia moves to mollify Thailand

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia—Cambodia's foreign minister left for Thailand on Tuesday to apologize for anti-Thai riots last week, as a 30-member official Thai delegation arrived to assess damage to property and businesses.

In a bid to defuse the worst diplomatic crisis between the two countries in decades, Foreign Minister Hor Namhong flew to Bangkok to deliver a formal apology letter from Prime Minister Hun Sen to Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

Softening its position, Thailand said Hor Namhong will be also be granted an audience with Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej so that he can present a letter from Cambodian King Norodom Sihanouk. The contents of the letter were not immediately known.

"The message and my visit show the willingness of the Cambodian government and our people to normalize ties as soon as possible with Thailand," Hor Namhong told reporters before leaving.

Minutes before his plane took off, the Thai delegation arrived in an Army C-130 plane for a one-day visit.

The delegation, comprising government officials and businessmen, will visit the dozens of gutted premises in the capital, Phnom Penh, and meet with a senior aide to Prime Minister Hun Sen, Thai Foreign Ministry spokesperson Sihasak Puangketkaew said.

According to the Thai government, the damage from Wednesday's riots is estimated to be 2 billion baht ($46.5 million) including 300 million baht ($ 6.9 million) at the Thai Embassy, which was the initial target of the rioters. *AP*

Ping PMP bet but Erap wants FPJ

From page A1

camp told the INQUIRER that Estrada was giving Poe until the end of March to make up his mind before he went all-out in support of Lacson.

Morales said Lacson's campaign would stress his being a "non-traditional politician," and what he could do to "restore law and order and go after corruption."

'He's small'

Asked to "size up" Lacson's possible rival, Sen. Juan Flavier, whose name is only the latest floated by the Macapagal administration as its candidate in the 2004 presidential race, Morales said, "He's small."

If he was just poking friendly fun at Flavier's diminutive size or belittling his chances of victory, Morales didn't say. Flavier himself has cracked enough jokes about his height.

On Monday, Flavier announced that he had agreed to include his name in the presidential surveys as requested by his Lakas-NUCD partymates.

"He's small (laughs). . . He is a good candidate, of course, but it's a question of what a candidate's platform will be," Morales told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Ironically, Morales said he was Flavier's "campaign manager" when the later won his first senatorial term in 1995. Flavier was also his predecessor as president of the NGO Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement.

Ground activity pushing for a Lacson candidacy has been set in motion.

At around noon today, pro-Lacson groups are going public for the first time in a press conference to be held in a restaurant on Visayas Avenue, Quezon City.

But opposition Sen. John Osmeña believes that the ruling party's presidential bet in 2004 would still be President Macapagal despite her landmark Dec. 30 announcement she was no longer running for president.

"I really do not believe her body language is matching the words," Osmeña said in Bacolod City. "I think her body language is really suggesting that she will run for elections in 2004."

He even figured that Sen. Noli de Castro would be Ms Macapagal's running mate.

"It was a political tactic to relieve all the pressure," Osmeña surmised.

He said the President was then facing severe criticism on the alleged bribery involving former Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, the Lualhati Foundation and talk of a military coup last December.

Roco-Legarda

Osmeña further pointed out that former Education Secretary Raul Roco might enlist Sen. Loren Legarda as his running mate.

Osmeña, who was a guest of the National Federation of Sugarcane Planters in Bacolod, pointed out that when the President was in Cebu City last month, she gave out checks of P1 million each to all the mayors.

She did the same thing in Davao and Iloilo cities, he added.

On Saturday, Osmeña said streamers were put up all over Roxas City, Capiz, calling on the President to run again in 2004. She did not comment about it during her visit to Roxas City, he added.

The senator said he suspected the streamers were put up by Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas, a native of Capiz.

Osmeña also pointed to the President's visit to Kuwait ostensibly to look into the condition of the Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs).

With Ms Macapagal running, Osmeña said he hoped that business tycoon Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco would change his mind and run for president because "he is highly qualified."

Osmeña was Cojuangco's running mate in the 1992 presidential elections. But the Cebuano senator withdrew three weeks before the elections to give way to Joseph Estrada. Cojuangco lost to Fidel V. Ramos but Estrada won as Vice President.

Cojuangco-Poe

Osmeña said Cojuangco could team up with Poe to increase his chances, especially if a Macapagal-De Castro tandem was fielded by the ruling party.

Getting Poe as running mate would boost Cojuangco's candidacy in a battle of popularity against the two "media magnets," he added referring to De Castro and Legarda.

But there's a determined group that wants Poe to run for president and is gathering 100,000 signatures in Eastern Visayas as part of a six-month signature campaign to convince the action king to run for president.

6-M signatures

The Freedom, Peace and Justice (FPJ) Movement was launched in Tacloban City, Leyte last Friday attended by about 20 persons from different sectors.

Virgilio Roseno, FPJ Movement secretary general for Eastern Visayas, said the 100,000 signatures was their "minimum target."

"We expect to gather more than 100,000 signatures as we have received a positive response from our people coming from all walks of life," he said.

Roseno said his group planned to gather six million signatures nationwide.

Roseno said registration centers would be put up in strategic areas in Eastern Visayas.

If the President went back on her word, Osmeña said the public might turn against her.

"It's something that remains to be seen but she can always manufacture a clamor for her to run again. That is the easiest thing to do," he said. *With a report from Joey A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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Anti-graft body probes GMA appointee

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CANDABA, Pampanga—The Presidential Anti-Graft Commission has started investigating the alleged unexplained wealth of an appointee of President Macapagal-Arroyo at the Department of Transportation and Communications.

Although he confirmed and welcomed the PAGC's move, DOTC Assistant Secretary Rene Maglanque belied reports that he owns a two-story house said to be worth about P50 million.

"It's not mine. It's my brother's," Maglanque, 37, told the INQUIRER.

Mayor Normita Evangelista, however, challenged Maglanque's claim. "Almost everybody here knows it's his house," she said on Monday.

Evangelista, a political rival of Maglanque, claimed that the Pampanga Electric Cooperative (Pelco) I had issued him a permit to install an electrical system at the house and a permit to be provided electricity there. A Pelco I official has yet to provide copies of these permits to the INQUIRER after two requests.

Municipal engineer Alexander Veneracion certified that Maglanque was the owner of the controversial house. The certification, issued on Monday, explained that the municipal government had notified the DOTC official of the house's "illegal construction."

THIS HOUSE, allegedly owned by DOTC assistant secretary Rene Maglanque is the cause of a hidden wealth allegation now being investigated by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission. TONETTE OREJAS

Veneracion said Maglanque did not secure a building permit and did not have the house and lot assessed for real property taxes. He said the house could be worth not more than P10 million.

Maglanque said his older brother Rolando, not him, owns the house and lot at Barangay Mandasig. The house sits on a 500-square-meter lot.

Maglanque said the house was built for P6 million or nine times less than the amount his detractors had claimed. The construction, he added, began in March 2001 or a month before he was appointed to the DOTC.

Construction was almost completed and finishing touches were being done when the INQUIRER visited the place.

Maglanque said his brother Rolando, a civil engineer like him, "could afford to build the house because he is a contractor."

In an interview Monday, Rolando said he owned and managed the R&E Builders that got contracts from private clients. The company, he said, had been operating since 1990.

Without disclosing the assets and income of his firm, Rolando said he has enough resources to build a "dream house" for his relatives. He said he also owns fishponds in the town.

Maglanque said he himself could afford to build a similar house if he wanted to. The family, he said, owned and managed the construction firm Global Tech Builders Inc. Operating since 1990, the company got contracts to build high-rise buildings in Metro Manila and Southern Luzon, he said.

"We never sought contracts from the government," he said, adding that he had been "inactive" in the company when he joined the DOTC in April last year.

Before his appointment reportedly on the endorsement of Pampanga Vice Gov. Juan Miguel Arroyo, the President's eldest son, Maglanque was a provincial board member for the fourth district and a municipal councilor.

Romeo, the oldest of the Maglanque brothers, was elected to the provincial board in 2001.

Maglanque said he built the family's ancestral house in the village for his mother Felicisima, 75. The house is reportedly worth P1 million.

Maglanque said he maintains a room in the family's house for himself, his wife and three children when they visit on weekends.

According to Rolando, he did not secure a building permit for the house because the lot was still the "subject of original land registration" and the municipal government had not been demanding the same from many others.

Maglanque said he had not received any notice of violation from the municipal government.

He ruled out graft, saying he did not sign contracts or licenses at the DOTC.

As a member of the department's bids and awards committee, he signs resolutions for awards. He claimed he signs checks worth up to P5 million but these were in payments for salaries and taxes.

Maglanque receives a salary of less than P30,000 a month.

Subanen tribe, execs mourn death of leader

By Ryan D. Rosauro
PDI Mindanao Bureau

OROQUIETA CITY—Environment officials in Misamis Occidental joined the Subanen tribe in grieving over the death of its leader who had been active in ecological protection and rehabilitation activities around Mount Malindang, the province's important mountain range.

In a resolution dated Feb. 3, the Mount Malindang Natural Park Protected Area Management Board (MMNP-PAMB) said the demise of Javier Langiras was not only "a great loss" for his family and relatives, "but also to the MMNP-PAMB."

The PAMB is composed of government environment executives and non-government groups concerned with the environment, indigenous people's representatives, and local government executives of localities inside the natural park.

In condoling with Langiras' family, the environment officials noted that in the six years that Langiras had been part of PAMB, he had "extended full support" to the efforts of protecting the remaining resources of the ecologically-threatened mountain "particularly within the coverage area of Don Victoriano, Misamis Occidental."

Before his death, the charismatic Langiras was an influential figure among the local population that inhabits hinterland Don Victoriano town. The Subanen tribe comprised over 80 percent of the town population.

He was gunned down early evening of Jan. 30 while about to enter his home in Barangay Lalud in Don Victoriano town.

At least 16 bullets of M-16 Armalite rifle pierced through Langiras' body, according to the victim's brother Alex.

The assassin could have been waiting in the vicinity for Langiras to come home by nightfall, he added.

Langiras was able to aimlessly fire two shots using the pistol he carried with him at that time, in a vain attempt to get even, his relative said. He died a few moments after.

Fellow Subanens looked up to Langiras as their hope of "one day installing one of our own" in the local government to work for the tribe's right to self-determination. It is no surprise why most among the tribe members view his death as having a political undertone.

Before his death, Langiras was an advocate of indigenous people's rights.

Chemical spill causes fish kill in Batangas

BAUAN, Batangas—A malfunctioning valve in one of the three tanks of Mabuhay Vinyl Corp. (MVC) caused over 5,000 liters of caustic soda to spill into the sea, killing the fish at the shores of Barangay San Miguel here since Jan. 28.

The Provincial Government Environment and Natural Resources Office (PG-ENRO) found that the spilling caustic soda or liquid sodium hydroxide caused the fish kill and warned people not to eat or sell the dead fish found on the shores.

Bernardo Dimaculangan, a local resident, said he saw thousands of dead fish floating on the Batangas Bay and more were seen on the shore. The sands have turned white from the chemical spill.

The chemical spill covered two hectares of the shoreline area and affected about 150 families.

Ingestion of solid or liquid sodium hydroxide can cause vomiting, chest and abdominal pain, and difficulty in swallowing, PG-ENRO Evelyn Estigoy said.

Once liquid, sodium hydroxide seeps rapidly into the soil, possibly contaminating water sources, she added.

Caustic soda is also a carcinogenic substance and has long time environmental effects.

But San Miguel Barangay Chair Henry Adora said the fish killed in the chemical spill were not poisonous as the villagers even collected and ate them.

"The fish kill is an overstatement, only the fish on the shorelines were killed, and they didn't even reach a thousand," Adora said some of the dead fish were even eaten by the residents and nobody among them had an upset stomach.

He said two MVC plant officers even roasted some dead fish and ate them. The two are still alive, he said.

MVC is located inside the Batangas Bay Terminal Inc. Compound and has been operating for 25 years now.

The compound is located in a residential area with over 200 people, mostly fishermen.

Also operating in the compound are Farmix, Union Carbide Philippines, Solid State Multi Products Corp., Chemphil Group, Filsyn, Impex Philippines, Boy Junkyard Inc. and San Pablo Manufacturing Corp.

Adora said it was the MVC personnel who helped them clean up the spill and even gave the residents sacks of rice after the activity.

His brother, Rolando, who is the chief security officer at Batangas Bay Terminal Inc. Compound, said what happened was an accident.

MVC officers, whose office is based in Makati City, refused to be interviewed. *Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Striking miners to continue barricades

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

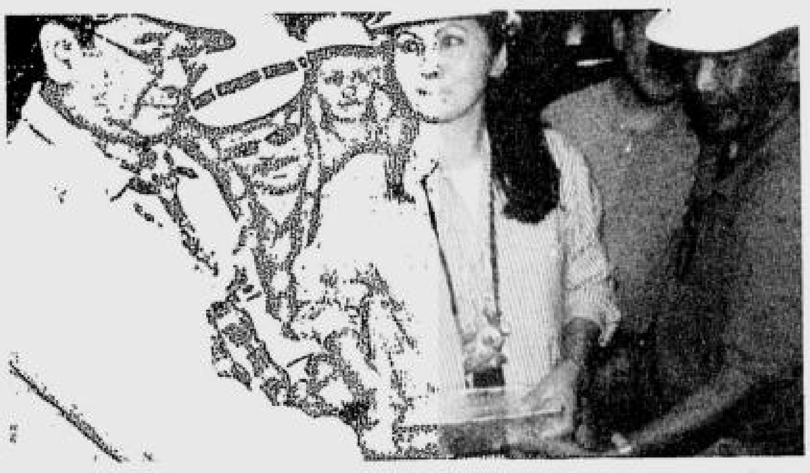
BAGUIO CITY—The compulsory holiday clause imposed by Lepanto Consolidated Mining Corp. (LCMC) on its workers threatened their jobs because any absence from the mandatory Christmas work could justify their expulsion, members of the firm's two unions said.

For the third day, the 1,526-member Lepanto Employees Union (LEU) and the 160-member Lepanto Local Staff Union (LLSU) continued to man four strike zones at the LCMC mining site in Mankayan, Benguet, said Marietta Morales, Cordillera director of the National Conciliation and Mediation Board (NCMB).

Union leaders told Morales in Mankayan on Tuesday that they would continue barricading the mine site until LCMC managers "corrected" the policies that allegedly promoted "unfair labor practice."

"They told me that the compulsory holiday rules automatically credit a worker's absence as AWOL (absence without official leave). Their (collective bargaining agreement) gives workers only seven AWOLs before they are stricken off the payroll," Morales told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Bryan Yap, incoming Lepanto president, and his predecessor, Artemio Disini, went to Mankayan Tuesday to assess the strike's impact on the firm's operations.


ENVIRONMENT Secretary Elisea Gozun holds a gold bar produced in Lepanto's mines during a recent visit in Mankayan, Benguet. EV ESPIRITU

"This is technically Lepanto's first strike. We've had reports of labor conflicts in the 1940s but we never had an official labor action until (Sunday)," said Flor Fajilan, Lepanto spokesperson.

But neither Yap nor Disini has offered the unions any settlement overtures to cut short the strike, Fajilan said.

He said the firm was losing an average of P2 million in operating costs and potential revenues each day of the strike.

Disini had been communicating with Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, LCMC sources said, to persuade her to respond to the strike.

The strike has been peaceful, Morales reported. "They work in three shifts and employees man four access areas such as the mill, (LCMC's) Nayac mine portal and Tubo operation site, and the entrance to the general administration buildings," she said.

"I didn't see any tension. They barely had placards. They are skeletal forces ordered to protect the facilities. They are well stocked with provisions, and will sit this one until something happens to settle the strike."

San Fernando cultural, historical heritage district planned

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Local officials on Tuesday unveiled the marker of the renovated Baluyut Bridge to start efforts to create a cultural and historical heritage district in this city.

Mayor Reynaldo Aquino said the bridge, originally called Puente Colgante, was a vital structure in the struggle for national independence and in the economic development of Central and Northern Luzon.

It was the only link between Manila and the rest of Central and Northern Luzon during the Spanish period.

The bridge, then made of wood across the San Fernando River, served as the main defense front of Filipino revolutionaries, led by Gen. Maximino Hizon, who defeated northbound Spanish troops.

On Oct. 9, 1898, Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo was given a rousing welcome in the liberated Pampanga from that wooden bridge. When the Philippine-American war broke out in 1899, Filipino revolutionaries repelled American troops from the bridge to delay, if not stop, the pursuit of Aguinaldo who retreated to the north.

Between 1925 and 1931, then Pampanga Gov. Sotero Baluyut, an American *pensionado* who finished civil engineering at the University of Iowa, not only built the first concrete highways going to Tarlac and Bulacan but also replaced the Puente Colgante with a reinforced concrete arch bridge.

The bridge was eventually named after Baluyut who, as a senator, pushed for the law creating the National Power Corp.

As Napocor's first chair, Baluyut initiated the construction of the Caliraya hydroelectric plant, the harnessing of the Maria Cristina Falls for electricity and the creation of the Ambuklao hydroelectric dam, which provided electricity to Luzon and Manila.

Baluyut was secretary of public works and communications until the Japanese invasion.

The renovation of the Baluyut Bridge, costing P2 million, was limited to repainting, installation of lights and marker, replacement of the balustrade and maintenance. Much of the original structure was retained.

Aquino said the creation of the heritage district consisting of historically and culturally significant sites at the city proper precedes the 250th founding anniversary next year of San Fernando, which was created out of Bacolor and Mexico towns.
Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

ROUNDUP

Priest missing

DAVAO CITY—An Iglesia Filipina Independiente (IFI) priest has been declared missing since Jan. 28. The IFI's Office of the Bishop of the Diocese of Surigao, in a press release sent to the INQUIRER, said it has officially declared Fr. Melvino "Ben" Resurreccion missing. Father Ben, assigned at a parish in Sison town in Surigao del Norte, was last seen riding a jeepney bound for Butuan City at 9 a.m. on Jan. 28. Father Ben, 48, is involved in many social issues, particularly with the present anti-mining and anti-PPA campaigns, the statement added.
Nico Alconaba, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Suspected NPA slain

TACLOBAN CITY—A suspected communist rebel was killed while five others were believed wounded in an encounter with Army soldiers on Jan. 29 in an interior village in Burauen town, Leyte. Gen. Eusebio Ramos, commanding officer of the 801st Infantry Battalion based in Burauen, said the unidentified New People's Army rebel was killed during a clash with nine soldiers belonging to the 19th IB in Barangay Villa Aurora, Burauen, about 50 kilometers west of here. Ramos said the soldiers were conducting operations when they encountered eight NPA rebels in the village.
Joey Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau

Swiss cleared

DUMAGUETE CITY—The City Prosecutor's Office cleared a Swiss national from rape charges but found him liable for charges of seduction. First Assistant City Prosecutor Adrian Borromeo dismissed the rape charges against Albert Hanz Koenig, 52, filed by Nene (not her real name), a senior high school student who claimed that the foreigner sexually abused her from Jan. 13 to August, 2002. Borromeo said no rape was committed because "the circumstances obtaining before and after the incident would tend to show that the complainant was not forced nor intimidated."
Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau

German found dead

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—A German tourist was found dead in his hotel room in Angeles City on Sunday, a report reaching here said. The German, identified by police as Marc Anton Joffen through a passport found in his belongings, was in his 50s. Dolores Orillo, an employee of the Park Inn Hotel at Barangay Malabanias, found Joffen's body when she went to his room to wake him up. Senior Supt. Jaime Restua, Angeles police director, said investigators did not see signs of foul play. The room and Joffen's belongings were in order. Restua said the body was taken to the Funeraria Pangilinan for autopsy.
Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

3 die in fiesta

A FIESTA celebration in this town turned into a tragedy as three persons died and five were injured when a high-tension electric wire that was hit by fireworks fell on them at 10:20 p.m., Sunday, in front of the Jollibee branch in Toledo Street, Silang, Cavite. Chief Supt. Enrique Galang Jr., Calabarzon police director, identified the victims as Howell and Howard Alcaraz, both 12 years old and residents of Luksuhin, Alfonzo, Cavite, and Merly Banay, a native of Mindoro. Five other persons injured during the incident were immediately rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment.
Joyce Mejillano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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Ka Pacing: The 'gentle' freedom fighter

By Tonette Orejas and Carmela Reyes
Bulacan, Bulacan

UP TO his last breath on Jan. 21, Dr. Jesus Lava never stopped yearning for genuine national independence. Not seeing that within his lifetime, the former secretary-general of the first communist party in the country, the Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas, mustered his remaining strength to echo a death wish.

"Do not ever forget what Filipino freedom fighters fought for, and continue persevering. Do not let the revolutionary struggle die," he said.

It was in that passionate aspiration that Lava, a scion of a landed gentry-turned-revolutionary, chose to leave at 88 years old, his daughter Ma. Luisa Lava-Cedilla said during a memorial service held on Jan. 26.

In life and in death, Lava continued to earn respect. At the birthplace of the Lava brothers in a mango orchard at Sitio Liblib in Barangay Tibig in Bulacan, Bulacan, hundreds of young and old people came to pay tribute.

Many of them were Lava's comrades in the party, founded in 1930, and in its armed wings, the Hukbo ng Bayan Laban sa Hapon (Hukbalahap) and the Hukbong Mapagpalaya ng Bayan (HMB).

Although weakened by illnesses or by age, they traveled from various parts of Luzon to bring his ashes to his grave. The ashes were sealed in a white marble urn draped with the PKP standard and the Philippine flag.

To Conrado Luna, then with the Pambansang Kaisahan ng Magsasaka, Lava shall remain to be the "gentle, circumspect" Ka Pacing, Lava's *nom de guerre*.

It was in Luna's village in Pulilan, Bulacan, where several PKP leaders framed the party's agrarian reform program before Lava moved to Laguna and Bicol to expand the party, he recalled.

Collective aspiration

"In his mild-mannered ways, he helped me realize that only in collective aspiration and actions of the toiling masses could we liberate ourselves from injustice; that we could never rely on the powers-that-be for our liberation," Luna, 72, said.

He said he was only 12 years old when Lava, then in his 40s and already a medical doctor, began organizing in the village.

Francisco Baltazar, now 84, still holds Lava in high esteem for the sacrifices he had made. "He was born to a wealthy family yet he chose to serve the cause of the poor and embrace the hard life," he said.

Assuming the party leadership from his brothers Vicente and Jose in 1951, Lava also infused more fire in it through the revolutionary songs he composed.

According to Mariano de Guzman, commander of the HMB's Squadron 56, Lava composed the army's march.

"It kept our morale high and constantly reminded us to be dedicated on who we actually serve: the lowly peasants and workers," De Guzman remembered after singing the hymn.

To Emiliano Castro, Lava's nephew and long-time aide, his uncle "never stopped dreaming, fighting for genuine independence" even during the difficult chapters in his life.

After the war, Lava as Bulacan congressman of the Democratic Alliance led farmers, workers, intellectuals and middle-class individuals in opposing pro-foreign laws.

Facing ouster from Congress on trumped-up charges of fraud, and later threats on his life after the murder of a peasant leader, he took to the hills.

He was captured in Sampaloc, Manila, on May 21, 1964, six days after he turned 50. He was jailed for 10 years until he was released through a general amnesty in 1974.

"In all those years, his revolutionary spirit never waned. He kept abreast of developments, kept in touch with some people in the movement. He also channeled his energy to endeavors like psychic healing even while in prison," said Castro.

To Isagani Bautista, Lava symbolized the "noble goal" of "defeating American imperialism," which has kept the country underdeveloped and the majority of the poor ever more buried in poverty.

On Jan. 31 last year, on the centennial of Lazaro "Ka Bull" de la Cruz, one of the party stalwarts, Lava pointed out the need at that juncture to "understand the history of communism in the country" to "push it forward."

DR. JESUS B. Lava, secretary-general of the Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas, is laid to rest on Jan. 26 amid pledges from his comrades that the revolutionary struggle continues even after his death.
TONETTE T. OREJAS

From regional college, UP Baguio becomes autonomous university

By Victoria Rico-Costina and Jimmy Fong
Contributors

BEFORE December last year, there were only six autonomous units making up the University of the Philippines System: UP Diliman, UP Manila, UP Los Baños, UP Visayas, UP Mindanao and the Open University.

UP Baguio is now the seventh. The transformation took effect with the Board of Regents' vote of approval on the matter last Dec. 2 at the UP Cebu College.

It has been at least 40 years from UP Baguio's small beginnings in 1961 when for its first regular semester as a college, it took in 200 students, 42 of whom would drop out in the second semester "under some kind of delinquent status."

Its library began with 800 books and could accommodate only 60 students "in comfort" and up to 90 "with some crowding."

The first campus buildings were one-story structures, and the campus flagpole was put up from "contributions from the studentry."

Most of its faculty members then were borrowed from the college of arts and sciences in UP Diliman. Mateo H. Tupas was recruited from the department of geology to become UP Baguio's first dean.

Serving 1,984 students in its undergraduate and graduate levels, UP Baguio now offers 14 degree programs in the fields of the humanities, social sciences, natural and physical sciences and mathematics, management, and physical education.

Under a tighter structure, only three colleges now oversee these programs: the college of arts and communication, the college of science, and the college of social sciences.

UP Baguio has emerged as the regional university of UP in Northern Luzon. It has been distinguished—through its Cordillera Studies Center—for its research on environment and resources, governance and public policy, local history and institutions, and women's studies.

Problems with land tenure arose in 1999 with the plan to construct a sprawling campus complex in Tuba, Benguet. Huge allocations would have been needed for this. The decision was then made to instead develop the present six-hectare campus.

Major infrastructure uplifts have taken place within the past two years. The reconstructed two-story administration building now houses classrooms, offices, computer laboratories, a multipurpose hall and conference rooms.

The UP Baguio library, the largest structure on campus, now houses 44, 479 volumes and is a beneficiary of the UP system's library modernization program.

Assessment

The move for autonomy began in the 1990s when an assessment of programs, faculty expertise and other resources showed readiness for autonomy as a state college.

By 1999, the BOR declared UP Baguio as an autonomous unit under the UP president. A university council was formed, chancellor powers were granted the college dean, and, more importantly, the college received its "chunk of the budget" and fiscal autonomy to decide how best to use this.

Within the past two years an exhaustive review of academic programs had taken place, with UP President Francisco Nemenzo speaking of the need to take "a hard look" at such programs, instead of "inventing" new ones.

Programs were overhauled, streamlined and strengthened. Others were abolished. Such reviews and redesigning of academic programs continue to keep faculty on their toes.

Acting Chancellor Priscilla Macansantos says in the regular autonomous unit, day-to-day activities are taken care of by the chancellor's executive staff. In the colleges, executive committees take charge of mixed functions such as policy making and implementation, and supervision.

Elated as she is by the transformation to full autonomy, Macansantos looks beyond consequent changes to say that "... the heart of all the growth is in the flowering of our academic programs, and in the further improvement of faculty profile and qualifications . . . (so we can) teach our students and fulfill our mission as the UP in the North."

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GMA echoes Bush line on Iraqi crisis

From page A1

day. Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, for instance, said that Shinseki's visit was "normal" and that it had nothing to do with the Iraqi crisis.

Another top security official described as "a simple courtesy call" the visit of Shinseki "who just happens to be on an Asian wing as part of his retirement calls."

"General Shinseki's visit has absolutely nothing to do with the Iraq issue," said the same official who spoke on condition of anonymity even though the information he had given out was anything but sensitive.

"General Shinseki may the chief of the US Army but he is just a force provider and does not have any role in the war preparations against Iraq, unlike (US General Tommy) Franks," the official said, referring to the overall US commander of American forces massing in the Gulf region.

The Macapagal administration has yet to spell out what support it will give Washington in case of a US strike on Iraq, although Ms Macapagal has indicated that the Philippine government is considering the possibility of helping out in Iraq's reconstruction should there be war.

INQUIRER sources in Washington earlier said the Philippines could also serve as a transit point for American forces headed for the Persian Gulf. American military planes were allowed to refuel in the Philippines during the US-led offensive against the Taliban regime in Afghanistan last year.

Not only did Palace officials deny that Ms Macapagal and Shinseki talked about the Iraq crisis, they also stressed that their meeting had no connection with her strongly worded statement on the issue.

In her five-paragraph statement, however, she made no mention of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, whom Bush holds responsible for any outbreak of hostilities. Bush has threatened to lead an international "coalition of the willing" to disarm Iraq should Saddam Hussein fail to destroy and account for his regime's weapons of mass destruction.

At a meeting of the UN Security Council on Wednesday, US Secretary of State Colin Powell is scheduled to present what Washington calls proof that Iraq has been hiding its weapons of mass destruction from UN inspectors. The meeting is widely seen as Baghdad's last chance to avoid war.

Ms Macapagal received Shinseki hours after her arrival from a two-day visit to Kuwait to check on the evacuation plans of 1.5 million Filipino workers in the Middle East who stand to be displaced in case of a US-led war on Iraq.

Losing the opportunity

"By its actions, it (Iraqi leadership) is rapidly losing the opportunity to resolve this matter by peaceful means. If it is not resolved by peaceful means, the responsibility will fall fully upon the Iraqi leadership," Ms Macapagal said in her statement.

She said the Philippines and its Southeast Asian neighbors were concerned "of the danger of these weapons falling into the hands of terrorists, whether wittingly or unwittingly."

Ms Macapagal described the situation as "a fight against terrorism which has bloodied our nation in recent years, from Metro Manila bombings to the depredations of the Abu Sayyaf."

"It has ravaged even countries that have tried to maintain some modicum of neutrality, like Indonesia with its Bali tragedy," she added.

"I urge the Iraqi leadership to heed the call of their people and of the world and do what's right . . . Putting innocent civilians in harm's way is tragic and selfish."

During her visit to Kuwait, Ms Macagapal assured overseas Filipino workers that she would do whatever it takes to save their jobs and keep them out of harm's way.

Powell presentation

The safety and jobs of millions of OFWs in the Middle East now hinge on Powell's presentation before the Security Council on Wednesday.

A Bush administration official said Powell would present photographs of mobile biological weapons and transcripts of overheard Iraqi conversations to convince allies that Saddam Hussein had potent arsenals in defiance of UN disarmament demands.

Powell sifted through classified US intelligence on Monday to choose what he would make public on Wednesday to the Security Council. He is expected to display the photographs and refer to transcripts, an official told The Associated Press.

The chair of the US House armed services committee, Rep. Duncan Hunter, said he expected the evidence to show details of a transfer of technology from other countries and the relocation of weapons systems within Iraq.

"He can go into a level of detail with respect to the present maintenance of the stock that he hasn't gone into before," Hunter said in an interview.

Sen. Jay Rockefeller, who like Hunter has received intelligence briefings, said he would not be surprised if Powell disclosed to the Security Council information that had not been made available to Congress.

Rockefeller, the senior Democrat on the Senate intelligence committee, said he had not seen enough evidence to justify war against Iraq. "At this point, I don't think it is compelling," he said.

For his part, Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain rallied anew to support the United States.

"Show weakness now and no one will ever believe us when we try to show strength in the future," Blair said as he prepared for a meeting Tuesday with French President Jacques Chirac, who is reluctant to go to war at this point.

In Moscow, Russian President Vladimir Putin said there was no need for another Security Council resolution on Iraq but he would not rule one out—as Bush said he was not doing, either.

"The inspectors need to tell us what more they need from Iraq, what else can be demanded of Iraq so their work could be more effective," Putin said.

His statement suggested that Russia could be imposing more pressure on Baghdad, even though it favored a political solution.

Russia and France, both of whom have veto power in the Security Council, are prime targets for Powell, who said in an article published Monday by The Wall Street Journal that "we will not shrink from war if that is the only way to rid Iraq of its weapons of mass destruction." *With reports from Martin P. Marfil, AP and Reuters*

OFWs prefer war threat to ₱80 per day jobs

From page A1

lims and those who did not get an education," Akmad said.

But she said that her family was reassured by the government's efforts to keep the workers in the Middle East safe and that they would be relocated when their lives are threatened.

The President met with workers' families and friends immediately after arriving, at about 7:45 a.m., from her state visit to Kuwait.

"Once you see the accommodations for your loved ones there, you will feel more secure about their safety and security," the President said to the crowd of about 700.

Ms Macapagal said "luxurious" and "resort-like" facilities await workers in Kuwait who will be relocated. She said the relocation center in Nuwaizib, 100 kilometers south of the Kuwaiti capital and near the Saudi border, was complete with amenities, safe stored water and sufficient sanitation facilities.

"The facilities include tents, and you know the rich in Kuwait sometimes go on vacation in tents so there are beautiful tents in the area," said the President.

Workers relaxed

Ms Macapagal said the Filipino community in Kuwait was quite relaxed under the circumstances.

"When I met your loved ones in Kuwait, I saw that they were relaxed. So when I told them that they looked relaxed, they gave me a round of applause," the President said in Filipino.

"Because that is what they want to make you realize here in the Philippines and I saw that in their faces," she added.

As for workers outside Kuwait, the President expressed satisfaction over the presentation of the Filipino ambassadors and chargés d'affaires of their respective contingency plans. "We are ready for any eventuality," she added.

The President said the plans will be backed by the government's available resources.

She announced that the Department of Foreign Affairs was making $50,000 available to each "vulnerable" embassy in the region.

She added that she was looking into the possibility of increasing the dollar allocation for Saudi Arabia since some 950,000 of the more than 1.4 million workers in the Middle East are posted there.

The country's envoy to Kuwait reaped special praise from the President for bringing together the 60,000 workers in the emirate into one federation, which will facilitate the implementation of the contingency plan.

But Bayani Mangibin, the chargé d'affaires of the Kuwaiti embassy, is also being eyed as the country's next ambassador to Iraq because of his experience in helping Filipino firms and workers take part in war reconstruction efforts when he was still a junior officer after the Gulf War.

The President playfully tossed a poser at Ople. "We are now in a dilemma, Ka Blas. Shall we keep him in Kuwait because Filipinos want him there and he has the background to promote investment and trade? Or do we send him to Iraq because of the many opportunities when the Middle East issue is resolved?" the President asked.

Workers' letters

At the assembly, the President read out some of the letters workers in Kuwait had asked her to bring home.

Garcia Palmenco wanted to tell her mother, siblings and nephews here in the country that she was doing fine. "Don't worry about me," she wrote to her sister Bella.

Ana del Carpio, who's working at Kuwait's Mubarak Hospital, wanted to make the same assurance to her son Francis and friend Cory Ramos.

Efren Zulueta, another worker, wanted his mother to join other families of overseas Filipino workers in Kuwait in welcoming the President.

Palmenco, Del Carpio and Zulueta's were three workers whose letters and notes Ms Macapagal received during her "mission of peace and journey of hope" over the weekend and read aloud before relatives gathered at the Philippine Trade and Training Center.

"They asked me to tell all of you not to worry about their safety because we are in close coordination with our embassies, even with their employers, to ensure their safety in case of emergency," Ms Macapagal said.

Rucaya Sumagka, a Muslim who worked in Kuwait during the 1991 Gulf War, said that the OFWs were luckier now because the government was prepared for their relocation. During the Gulf War, the government repatriated about 25,000 workers.

Sumagka has nieces who are employed as maids in Kuwait. She said that while their families feared for their safety, they are also not pushing to have them brought home.

Filipino nurses like Del Carpio would be among the last to leave Kuwait if war erupts because of the Kuwaiti government's request that foreign health workers stay to help.

The President also announced that the Kuwaiti emir pledged to allow some 200 Filipinos who ran away from their employers to return to the Philippines, and that he would pardon "at least 22" Filipinos held in Kuwaiti jails.

Meanwhile, Sen. Manny Villar yesterday warned the labor department against the possible misuse of the P1-billion relocation fund.

Villar, chair of the Senate foreign relations committee, said the government must be transparent on the specific plans it will undertake to bring affected workers to safer ground. *With reports from Cynthia Balana; AFP*

Tancangco . . .

From page A1

head." He said a rejection of the justice committee's report would have allowed the House to investigate her and consequently give her the chance to defend herself.

Among the allegations against Tangcangco were failing to carry out the Commission on Elections' modernization program, using more than the appropriated funds for a voter registration project, and incurring more than P100 million in unliquidated cash advances.

But Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen, one of the 69 who voted to uphold the justice committee's report, said his fellow lawmakers could not force the issue anymore because Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez, who chaired the Monday session, had "already decided the matter."

Abad lamented that the latest impeachment case in the House would "only make it even harder for us to impeach officials."

He said it could further embolden erring officials into thinking that they could easily elude impeachment proceedings.

Abad said Nachura made the request for a third round of voting because a significant number of other congressmen—93—had yet to vote.

According to the impeachment rules, the vote of one-third of the members is needed to overturn the House justice committee's report. In this case, the 219-member House needed the vote of 73.

Among those who did not vote were Representatives Imee Marcos, Danton Bueser and Vicente Sandoval.

Abad said there was prior agreement for the House to take the vote yesterday. He said this might have been the reason the other lawmakers showed up on the voting day itself, and not on Monday when the vote was made.

He said Nachura, who chairs the House committee on constitutional amendments, was one of those studying and preparing the case that they might file before the Supreme Court.

TANCANGCO: Off the hook but not quite.

Fighting chance

In a phone interview, Nachura said the Monday-night vote on the complaint against Tangcangco resulted in such "close voting" that he rose to request a third round of voting.

Normally, the House observes only two rounds of voting on the floor.

"The vote of the 93 members who were not present would have made a whole lot of a difference. All we needed were 73 votes to overturn the (justice committee's) report," Nachura said, adding:

"*Sayang, dahil may laban* (It's regrettable because there was a fighting chance)."

He also said it was pointless to ask the House yesterday that the vote be reopened because the session was adjourned Monday night and pushing for it would be in violation of the rules.

Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella, main sponsor of the complaint against Tancangco, also contended that the vote was forced upon them the other night when there was an earlier understanding to hold it yesterday.

Puentevella said he had heard that some of the 93 who were unable to vote wanted the chance to vote.

HOW THEY VOTED

69 FOR TANCANGCO

Abayon H.	LP
Ablan Jr. R.	Lakas
Albano Jr. R.	Lakas
Antonino-Custodio	NPC
Apostol	Lakas
Aquino A.	LP
Barbers	Lakas
Bautista	NPC
Bernardo-Lokin	Cibac
Bondoc JP	NPC
Bulut Jr. E.	NPC
Cajes R.	Lakas
Cari C.	Lakas
Celeste A.	Ind.
Chatto E.	PDP
Chipeco Jr. J.	Kampi
Cojuangco M.	NPC
Cua J.	LP
De Guzman D.	Lakas
Dilangalen	NPC
Domogan M.	Lakas
Dumarpa E.	Lakas
Dy III F.	Lakas
Ecleo G.	Lakas
Espina G.	NPC
Espinosa V.	NPC
Estrella III C.	NPC
Failon T.	Ind.
Fuentebella F.	NPC
Garcia V.	NPC
Jaafar S.	Lakas
Jala E.	Lakas
Jaraula C.	LDP
Javier E.	Lakas
Joaquin U.	NPC
Leviste C.	Lakas
Libanan M.	NPC
Lobregat C.	LDP
Macarambon B.	NPC
Madamba	APEC
Malanyaon C.	Lakas
Matalam G.	Kampi
Mathay III I.	Ind.
Mitra A.	LDP
Nograles P.	Lakas
Pablo	APEC
Padilla C.	LDP
Paras J.	Lakas
Pichay Jr. P.	Lakas
Ramirez-Sato J.	Lakas
Ramiro H.	LP
Rodriguez Jr. I.	NPC
Seachon Jr. F.	NPC
Silverio L.	Lakas
Singson E.	LP
Solis J.	Ind.
Suarez A.	LP
Suplico R.	LDP
Sy-Alvarado W.	Lakas-NUCD
Taganas Layus C.	NPC
Talino-Santos E.	Ind.
Teves H.	Lakas
Tulagan D.	NPC
Umali A.	LDP
Valdez	APEC
Veloso E.	NPC
Vicencio R.	Lakas
Villareal R.	NPC
Zamora R. Ind.	

57 AGAINST TANCANGCO

Abad F.	LP
Abaya P.	LP
Aguja	Akbayan
Alfelor F.	Lakas
Almario J.	Lakas
Amatong P.	Lakas
Ancheta B.	Lakas
Andaya R.	Lakas
Aquino III B.	LP
Bacani R.	LP
Banaag L.	LDP-NPC
Baterina S.	Lakas
Beltran C.	PL-Bayan Muna
Cabilao B.	Lakas
Carloto II A.	Lakas
Castelo Daza N.	Lakas
Castro F.	LP
Chiongbian E.	Lakas
Chungalao	LP
Clarete E.	Reporma
Cuenco A.	BOPK-Promdi
Dadivas R.	LP-PPCI
Dangwa S.	Reporma
Defensor (A.)	Reporma
Del Mar R.	BOPK-Promdi-PPC
Dy C.	Lakas
Erice	NUCD-UMDP
Ermita-Buhain E.	Lakas
Gonzalez R.	Lakas
Gordon Jr. J.	Lakas
Gozos O.	Lakas
Gunigundo M.	Lakas
Lagman-Luistro C.	Lakas
Lanot H.	LDP
Locsin Jr. T.	PDP-Laban
Lopez J.	Lakas
Maza L.	PL-Bayan Muna
Monfort N.	Lakas
Moreno O.	Lakas
Nachura A.	LP
Ocampo S.	Lakas
Puentevella M.	Lakas
Real Jr. I.	Lakas
Reyes Jr. E.	Lakas
Reyes V.	Reporma
Roco C.	Aksyon
Rodriguez O.	Lakas
Roman A.	Ind.
Rosales L.	Akbayan
Salapuddin A.	Lakas
San Juan N.	Lakas
Sumulong V.	LDP
Uy E.	Lakas
Wacnang L.	LP
Ylagan P.	Lakas
Zialcita E.	Lakas
Zubiri J.	Lakas

Cebu publisher . . .

From page A1

two awardees for this year's Benigno S. Aquino Jr. Fellowships for Professional Development. The Daily News is an affiliate of the INQUIRER.

The other awardee was Prof. Taha Basman, president of the Philippine Islamic Council and vice chair of the Inter-religious Federation for World Peace. Basman, 50, is also a co-convenor of the Movement for Muslim Christian Dialogue.

Mangubat, 39, is the first provincial journalist to receive the award established by the US Embassy in 1988 as part of its International Visitors Program (IVP) "to commemorate Aquino's record of accomplishments in journalism and public service."

"I was so surprised. It was so unexpected because I did not apply for it," Mangubat said. "But I am very pleased because it is also a recognition for community journalists."

She said the fellowship is a "double celebration," because it will be awarded today, just one day before the Daily News celebrates its 5th anniversary.

The awarding rites will be held at the residence of US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone.

In a letter to Mangubat, Ricciardone said she was selected "in recognition of (her) outstanding contributions to the field of journalism."

Some of the previous awardees include BusinessWorld publisher Raul Locsin, columnist Vergel Santos, Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism executive director Shiela Coronel, Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility executive director Melinda Quintos-de Jesus, Newsbreak editor-in-chief Maritess Danguilan Vitug and the late television newscaster Jose Mari Velez.

Study tour

As awardees, Mangubat and Basman will take part in a three-to-four-week study tour of the United States under the IVP, which is administered by the Office of International Visitors at the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the US Department of State.

The program is designed to allow the awardees to pursue their professional and personal interests in the United States.

The Cultural Affairs Office in coordination with the Office of International Visitors in Washington, D.C. will draft the program of activities.

Mangubat said it was possible her selection was based solely on her conversation with Stephenson about the Cebu Citizens-Press Council, which she and other media leaders in Cebu have been putting together for the past two years.

Late last year, she recalled, she and Stephenson had a "brief" lunch at the Marriott Hotel here.

The conversation centered on the council, which Mangubat, Juan Mercado of Press Foundation Asia and top editors of the local papers here are organizing.

Its goals are to serve as a venue for a dialogue between the press and the public on the role of the press as well as be a self-regulatory mechanism by acting on complaints from the public regarding abuses by members of the press.

Early this month, Stephenson called up Mangubat to ask for her curriculum vitae for the embassy's database. Mangubat said it took her some time to submit the papers because she thought it was only for profiling purposes.

Then came the call on Jan. 16. "Before I left for home, I remembered the call (from the US Embassy)," Mangubat recalled.

During the tour, Mangubat said she intends to study successful press councils in the United States.

Mangubat's mother Josephine is based in Los Angeles and her elder brother Chuck is a physician in Arizona.

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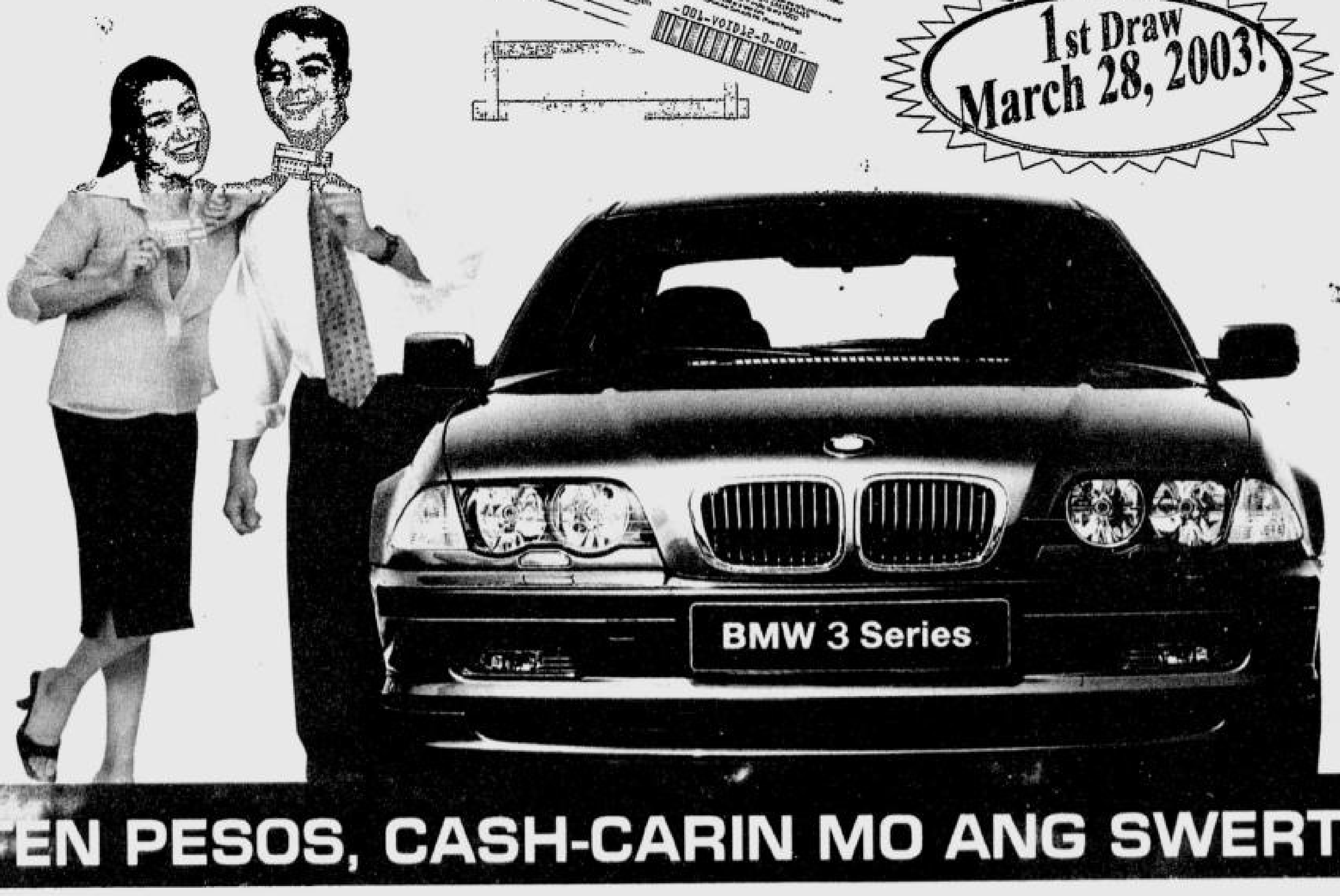

FOR TEN PESOS, CASH-CARIN MO ANG SWERTI!

SO THE PEOPLE WILL KNOW WHY MAY 3, 1917 IS THE TRUE, GENUINE AND CORRECT DATE OF REGISTRATION OF OCT NO. 994 OF THE MAYSILO ESTATE

Beware Caloocan, Malabon & Quezon City Landowners and Homeowners, Church & Urban Poor Communities, National Government Agencies & Local Governments: Protect Your Properties, Join the Crusade of the Group of May 3, 1917 Against Landgrabbing !!!

(Among the areas, buildings, structures, and highways which are being gobbled up by the members of the Group of April 19, 1917 are the Bonifacio Monument, the McArthur Highway; Sangandaan up to the Balintawak Cloverleaf on North Diversion Road at EDSA; 6th Avenue along Bonifacio Ave.; Tullahan River in Malabon, University of the East compound, Manila Central University compound and Hospital, Lourdes Church in the Morning Breeze Subdivision, Housing Projects for the urban poor under the Sto. Nino Kapitbahayan Association Inc., St. Gabriel Church, La Salle-Araneta University, Araneta Institute of Agriculture, public school buildings, markets, Manila Railroad Co. and Malabon municipal buildings, other residential, commercial and industrial areas. The DOJ Report also listed 109 National Government properties some of which were earlier expropriated for urban poor housing projects and highway widening projects, and 19 Caloocan and Malabon local government properties, which were overlapped or usurped through titles issued to members of the Group of April 19, 1917.)

WE CHALLENGE ANY HOLDER OR OWNER OF A TITLE SUPPOSEDLY DERIVED OR TRANSFERRED FROM 'MOTHER TITLE' OCT 994 ISSUED OR REGISTERED ON APRIL 10, 1917 WITH REFERENCE TO THE LONG-DEFUNCT MAYSILO ESTATE, TO COME FORWARD TO PRESENT SUCH ALLEGED 'MOTHER TITLE' TO THE PUBLIC.

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

TEOFISTO GUINGONA

FRANKLIN M. DRILON

MARCELO B. FERNAN

JUAN M. FLAVIER

EDGARDO J. ANGARA

LETICIA RAMOS-SHAHANI

ERNESTO M. MACEDA

FREDDIE N. WEBB

In 1998, THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES authorized its Committees on Justice and Human Rights, and on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement, to investigate and submit a report on the Maysilo Estate titling irregularities. The joint investigation submitted an official report signed by, among others, the late Senate President Marcelo B. Fernan, then chair, justice and human rights; Senator Leticia Ramos-Shahani, then chair, urban planning, housing and resettlement; Senator Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, now President of the Philippines; Senator Franklin M. Drilon, incumbent Senate President; Senator Juan M. Flavier, incumbent Senate President Protempore; Senator Edgardo J. Angara, Senator Ernesto M. Maceda, and Senator Freddie N. Webb.

In 1997, THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE under then Secretary of Justice Teofisto Guingona, now incumbent Vice-President of the Philippines, organized a composite team of officials from the Department Proper, the Land Registration Authority and the Office of the Solicitor General earlier conducted a full-dress investigation and submitted an official report.

THERE IS ONLY OCT 994 AND IT WAS IT ISSUED OR REGISTERED ON MAY 3, 1917

It has been conclusively and absolutely established that there is but ONLY ONE OCT 994. It is now in the custody of the Land Registration Authority. This is the conclusive official finding in the Investigation Report of the Department of Justice Fact-Finding Committee dated August 28, 1997 and the Joint Investigation Report No. 1031 of the Senate Committees on Justice and Human Rights, and on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement dated May 25, 1998. Even the "April 19, 1917 Group" admits this incontrovertible fact.

When was OCT No. 994 issued or registered? Was it on April 19, 1917, as alleged by the "April 19, 1917 Group" or on May 3, 1917 as asserted by our "May 3, 1917 Group"?

THE TRUE, CORRECT AND ONLY ANSWER is: MAY 3, 1917.

There are three dates appearing on the face of OCT 994, to wit:

"WITNESS: the Hon. Norberto Romualdez, Associate Judge of said Court, the 3rd day of December, A.D. nineteen hundred and twelve.

"Issued at Manila, P.I. the 19th day of April A.D. 1917 at 9:00 a.m.

ATTEST: **ENRIQUE ALTAVAS**
Chief of the General Land
Registration
Office

"RECEIVED FOR TRANSCRIPTION AT THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTER OF DEEDS for the Province of Rizal this THIRD DAY OF MAY NINETEEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTEEN at 7:30 a.m.

[Illegible]
REGISTER OF DEEDS"

The first date, "3rd day of December, A.D. nineteen hundred and twelve", indicates the date of the promulgation of the Decision of the Land Registration Court directing the issuance of the Decree in the land registration proceedings. The second date, "19th of April A.D. 1917", indicates the date of the issuance of the actual Decree (in this case, Decree 36455) by the then General Land Registration Office, in compliance with the court's Decision. And the third date, "3rd day of May, nineteen hundred and seventeen", indicates the actual date of the transcription of the Decree.

Under Sections 41 and 42 of Act No. 496, the Land Registration Act, which was the law then in force when OCT 994 was issued, the "entry made by the register of deeds in this book (Registration Book) in such case shall be the original certificate of title and shall be signed by him and sealed with the seal of the court" (Sec.41); and that "this certificate (Original Certificate of Title) shall take effect upon the date of transcription of the decree (of registration)" (Sec. 42)

For the applicable jurisprudence, the Supreme Court in the case of Benin v. Tuason (57 SCRA 531, 566 [1974]) citing Philippine National Bank v. Tan Ong Zee (51 Phil. 317, 321), held that, "as defined in Section 41 of Act. 496, the certificate of title is the transcript of the decree of registration of deeds in the registry".

Therefore, pursuant to the pertinent law and jurisprudence, the "3rd day of May, nineteen hundred and seventeen," represents the effective or actual date of issuance of OCT 994.

That is the same finding in the Report (pages 17-19) of the DOJ Fact-Finding Committee composed of the legal experts in this field, namely, then DOJ Undersecretary Ricardo G. Nepomuceno Jr., Assistant Solicitor General Romeo C. dela Cruz, LRA Deputy Administrator Ricardo Arandilla, WPSPB Director Jude Romano, and DOJ Assistant Chief State Counsel Rosalinda A. Vicente.

The Senate Committees on Justice and Human Rights, and on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement in their Committee Report 1031 (pages 20-22) agreed, saying that: "It may be deduced from the provisions of Sections 41 and 42 of Act No. 496, otherwise known as the 'Land Registration Act', that the date of transcription of or entry at the registry is the date of registration, therefore it is also the date to be placed on the face of the title."

The Senate Report also recommended, among others, that the findings of the DOJ Fact-Finding Committee "be accorded the respect it deserves considering that they are the result of a joint undertaking of the Department proper, the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) and the Land Registration Authority (LRA, the last two offices being directly mandated by law to protect the public interest in land title registration."

We should not be sidetracked as to the correct understanding of the truly applicable law, its rules and jurisprudence by a misleading and misplaced citation of secondary authorities like book commentaries which, as elementary rules of statutory construction tell us, cannot prevail over the primary authorities.

BARTOLOME RIVERA & CO : HOW THE FAKE FAMILY TREE OF MARIA DE LA CONCEPCION VIDAL WAS PLANTED

On May 25, 1962, the Court of First Instance of Rizal Branch 1 presided by then Judge Cecilia Munoz Palma in Civil Case No. 4557 (Petition for Substitution of Names) granted the petition of Bartolome Rivera and nine other alleged heirs of the "late" Maria Concepcion Vidal to have their names substituted for that of their supposed deceased grandmother in OCT No. 994. Vidal was one of the registered co-owners of OCT 994, one of the five titles to the Maysilo Estate covering portions of Caloocan City, Malabon and a portion of Quezon City. Her participation was to the extent of 1-189/1000 of land under OCT 994.

Judge Palma also issued a court order dated June 13, 1966 which awarded to Jose B. Dimson as his attorney's fees 25 percent of whatever share Bartolome Rivera and the other alleged heirs have over the five lots of OCT 994 still undisposed in the intestate estate of their decedent Vidal. The court order specified that the approval of the conveyance would be "subject to availability of undisposed portion of the lots and provided whatever title was to be issued in favor of Dimson should be based on a subdivision plan duly certified by the then Land Registration Commission as correct and in accordance with previous orders issued in the proceedings, said plan to be submitted to the court for final approval."

But there is no record of compliance with the court requirement and of the court's final approval of the LRC subdivision plan.

In fact, another order by Judge Palma dated August 16, 1966, DENIED the motion of Dimson for awarding him 25 percent of Lots 25, 26, 27, 28B and 29 of OCT No. 994 on the ground that "whatever portions of the property covered by the OCT 994 had not been disposed of by previous registered owners have already been assigned and adjudicated to Bartolome Rivara and his assignees, as a result of which there is no portion that is left to be given to the herein supposed assignee Jose Dimson."

Since 1979, THE EXPEDIENTE — THE WHOLE RECORDS – OF CC-4557, THE CASE DECIDED BY THEN JUDGE PALMA, HAVE BEEN MISSING FROM THE DOCKET OF THE NOW REGIONAL TRIAL COURT AT PASIG, RIZAL. This was reported by the Verification Committee of the Land Registration Commission (now Land Registration Authority) that year when it investigated the issuances and registration of titles supposedly derived from OCT No. 994.

The Palma decision of May 25, 1962 recited the following "facts" — Vidal was married to Pioquinto Rivera during the Spanish regime. To them were born the children Epifania, Pedro, Potenciana, and Severo all surnamed Rivera, all of whom are now dead. Epifania died in1954 at 116 years old but left no children. Pedro left two daughters, Eleuteria and Teresa and is survived by children Pelagia, Modesta, Venancio, Felipe and Fidela, all surnamed Angeles. Potenciana is survived by children Josefa, Gregorio and Rosauro, all surnamed Aquino. Severo died in 1907, and was survived by son Bartolome.

No party appeared to oppose it so petitioners were permitted to adduce evidence before a commissioner. Principal witness Daniel Villegas, 105 years old, testified that spouses Vidal and Pioquinto Rivera were well known to him as he was living on a portion of the Maysilo Estate and was paying rentals to Maria, his house being close to her house. The witness identified an old picture of Maria and Pioquinto, both of whom died sometime during the Spanish regime.

The Verification Committee of the then Land Registration Commission, headed by then Deputy Commissioner Paz Lahoz-Argel submitted three investigation reports dated July 21, 1980, February 2, 1981, and August 3, 1981 with this conclusion: PHYSICAL AND GENETIC IMPOSSIBILITY OF THEIR BEING SUPPOSED HEIRS OF MARIA DE LA CONCEPCION VIDAL

In its August 3, 1981 report, the LRC Committee said: "If Bartolome Rivera was 65 years old in 1963 or thereabouts, he was born on or before 1898. If Maria de la Concepcion Vidal was 9 years old on or before December 3, 1912, she was born on or before 1903. Could a grandson be older than his grandmother?"

The Office of the Solicitor General, in its petition to annul the Lilia Sevilla 22 titles supposedly bought from the heirs of Bartolome Rivera, cited these circumstances:

— Maria was described as only "nine years of age" in the Decree 36455 issued on December 3, 1912. Thus, Maria could not have been born earlier than 1903. Bartolome Rivera who, by his own testimony accepted by the Court in its Order of May 17, 1963, was 65 years old in 1963, must have been born in 1898, thus resulting in Bartolome, the supposed grandson, being five years older than his alleged grandmother.

— The OSG petition also cited the claim in the court decision that Severo Rivera — son of Maria de la Concepcion Vidal and father of only surviving son Bartolome — died in 1907. Thus, OSG stressed, "again projecting the fact that Maria, being only 4 years old in 1907, could not have previously given birth to, and become the mother of, an adult like Severo Rivera, old enough to have sired his only heir, Bartolome Rivera."

Then Solicitor General Estelito P. Mendoza, representing the Republic of the Philippines, concluded: "The total absence of relationship did not produce a valid or legal transmission of rights, whether thru hereditary succession or otherwise, from Maria de la Concepcion Vidal to Bartolome Rivera, and in turn, thru his heirs to defendant Lilia Sevilla." In 2001, the Caloocan Regional Trial Court ordered the cancellation of the Sevilla titles for being fraudulent, overlapping previously issued titles and being derived from a non-existent mother title. The Court cited the findings of the DOJ and Senate Reports.

The Senate Report underscored the following points:

— In the Court Order, it was stated that Epifania Rivera died in 1954 at the age of 116 years old. Hence, Epifania must have born in 1838, or 65 years ahead of her supposed grandmother, Maria de la Concepcion Vidal, who was born in 1903.

— Maria was supposed to have gotten married to Piquinto Rivera during the Spanish regime. Since Maria was born only in 1903, her husband could not have married her during the Spanish regime.

The truth is that on May 27, 1965, Maria de la Concepcion Vidal died SINGLE and WITHOUT ISSUE, THEREFORE, HEIRLESS, WITHOUT CHILDREN, MUCH LESS GRAND-CHILDREN, in Madrid, Spain at 6 a.m. on May 27, 1965. She died following a heart attack, as certified in the "Certificacion Literal de Inscripcion de Difucion de Maria Concepcion Vidal y Delgado" issued by the civil registrar of Madrid. The Vice Consul of the Republic of the Philippines issued a certificate of authentication for it on behalf of the Madrid Consular District.

Yet, the alleged heirs filed their petition on October 20, 1961, or SOME FOUR YEARS AND SEVEN MONTHS BEFORE THEIR SUPPOSEDLY DEAD GRANDMOTHER ACTUALLY PASSED AWAY! The alleged Palma decision approving the petition of the alleged heirs was promulgated on May 25, 1962, or SOME THREE YEARS BEFORE THE GRANDMOTHER ACTUALLY DIED! While witness Daniel Villegas was testifying in court that Vidal and her husband died during the Spanish regime, Vidal was ACTUALLY STILL VERY MUCH ALIVE IN MADRID!

MARIA DE LA CONCEPCION VIDAL'S SHARE IN THE MAYSILO ESTATE WAS ONLY SIX HECTARES!

Considering that the share of Maria de la Concepcion Vidal was only 1-189/1000 percent of the Maysilo Estate as shown by inscriptions on the original OCT No. 994 issued on May 3, 1917, she would have inherited only 15 hectares and 827 square meters. Thus, the Riveras — were they the true heirs of Vidal, could inherit only 15.8 HECTARES as their share from her estate.

However, Transfer Certificate of Title (TCT) No. 8759 dated SEPTEMBER 15, 1925, was issued to Vidal and her co-owners Luis Vidal y Tuason, Concepcion Vidal y Tuason and Pedro Banos COVERING LOT 6-B –1 with a TOTAL AREA OF 257,502 SQUARE METERS. Vidal's SHARE WAS TO THE EXTENT OF ONLY 6.1 HECTARES.

This was in accordance with the Proyecto de Participacion de la Hacienda de Maysilo submitted by court-appointed commissioers on JUNE 12, 1917, dividing the entire Maysilo Estate covered by OCTs Nos. 982-983, 084, 985 and 994 among the 32 registered co-owners named in OCT 994 and the other titles.

The Proyecto adjudication, the DOJ Report found, was IN FULL SETTLEMENT OF VIDAL'S PARTICIPATION AND INTERESTS not only in the property covered by OCT 994 but also in the properties registered under OCT Nos. 982 to 985.

Therefore, WERE THEY REAL HEIRS OF VIDAL under the Proyecto de Participacion de Maysilo, the Riveras would be entitled to ONLY 6.1 HECTARES.

HOWEVER, BEING BOGUS HEIRS, as EXPOSED by the LRA RECORDS and the SENATE AND DOJ REPORTS, THEY DESERVE NOT EVEN A SINGLE SQUARE METER OF SOIL OF THE MAYSILO ESTATE!

Because of this, the DOJ Report urged the Office of the Solicitor General to "actively intervene in the partition proceedings before Caloocan RTC Branch 120 entitled Bartolome Rivera v. Isabel Gil de Sola, et al., Civil Case No. C-424, to ensure tht no further certficates of title, representing direct transfers from OCT 994 may be ordered issued by the court without the subdivision plans, technical descriptions and approvals required by Section 50 of Act 496 and Sections 50 and 58 of P.D. 1529."

"On this basis," the DOJ Report said, the OSG may consider the feasibility of moving to close and terminate the partition proceedings." The Caloocan Regional Trial Court Branch 120 has been serving as the "factory" of dubious Maysilo Estate titles all these years.

ALL TITLES CLAIMING OCT NO. 994 ISSUED ON APRIL 19, 1917 AS 'MOTHER' TITLE, ARE FAKE, SPURIOUS, AN EVIL FABRICATION.

Such are the titles of Lilia Sevilla, Jose B. Dimson, Estelita Hipolito, CLT Realty Development Corporation, and Eleuteria Rivera, which on their faces are clearly derived or transferred from "mother title" OCT 994 registered or issued on April 19, 1917. Such "mother title", both the DOJ and Senate Reports concluded, is "non-existent, a fabrication." In other words, these titles were based on, originated or produced from, THIN, HOT AIR, ABSOLUTELY NOTHING. Therefore, the holders of these titles could not have validly and legally acquired, sold or transferred their properties for their titles are void ab initio or fraudulent from the very beginning.

The Senate Report recommended that the Office of the Solicitor General and the Land Registration Authority "immediately implement" the (DOJ) Fact-Finding Committee's recommendations, specifically with regard to the cancellation of the above titles, "BEING NULL AND VOID FOR OVERLAPPING TTLES COVERING THE SAME PROPERTIES WHICH WERE LEGALLY AND VALIDLY TITLED TO OTHER PERSONS SOME FORTY (40) TO SEVENTY (70) YEARS EARLIER." (page 33, Senate Report)

In 2001, acting on the petition of the Republic through the Office of the Solicitor General, seeking to nullify the Sevilla titles, the National Capital Regional Trial Court, Branch 122, at Caloocan City, ordered THE CANCELLATION OF SEVILLA'S 22 FRAUDULENT TRANSFER CERIFICATES OF TITLE WHICH WERE DERIVED FROM OCT NO. 994 REGISTERED ON APRIL 19, 1917. Judge Remegio E. Zari stressed, "CLEAR AND SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE HAS PROVED THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE OCT 994 and THE SAME WAS ISSUED AND REGISTERED ON MAY 3, 1917.

The Court said, "Vicious fraud was maliciously done" to some trial courts, the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court in previous cases which these courts decided on the basis of a "nonexisting" OCT 994 issued or registered April 19, 1917. The Court cited THE OFFICIAL FINDINGS OF THE COMPREHENSIVE REPORTS OF THE SENATE (1998) and THE DOJ (1997) WHICH INVESDTIGATED THE MAYSILO ESTATE TITLING SCANDAL.

On October 17, 2002, the Court of Appeals 14th Division chaired by Associate Justice Aquino in a unaminous decision in Phil-Ville Development & Housing Corp. vs. Maximo R. Bonifacio, et al, the surviving heirs of Eleuteria Rivera, and the Caloocan registrar of deeds, began dismantling the fiction of OCT 994 issued on April 19, 1917. It squarely touched on two Supreme Court cases: MWSS v. Court of Appeals, 215 SCRA 753 (1992) and the jointly decided cases of Gonzaga and Mascarinas.

Defendant heirs of Eleuteria Rivera, alleged granddaughter of Maria de la Concepcion Vidal, argued that res judicata applied to bar Phil-Ville's complaint for quieting of title and damages against the Rivera heirs whose TCT No. C-314537 overlapped the lots of Phil-Ville, LCM Theatrical Enterprises, and Bonifacio Shopping Center. The Riveras' title was derived from OCT 994 registered on April 19, 1917. The defendants invoked the Supreme Court decisions in MWSS, Gonzaga and Mascariñas as a bar to Phil-Ville's action.

The CA's ruling: Res judicata does not apply as there is no identify of parties for Phil-Ville was not a party to either MWSS or Gonzaga and Masdarinas cases. Neither does the doctrine of "law of the case" apply since the case is not a part or an offshoot of the MWSS, and the Gonzaga and Mascariñas cases. "In rendering the appealed decision, did the court a quo ignore or violate the High Court's decisions? Negative. For the two SC rulings contemplate a situation where, for one piece of land, two or more original certificates of title had been issued pursuant to two or more decrees of registration emanating from two or more land registration or cadastral proceedings. In such a situation, the earliest certificate of title prevails. In the present case, there was only one land registration proceeding, the CLR Case No. 4429, only one decision, that one rendered by Hon. Norberto Romualdez on December 3, 1912, only one decree of registrationk Decree No. 36455 issued on April 19, 1917 and just one original certificate of title, OCT No. 994 issued on May 3, 1917 pursuant to said decree of registration."

Then came the CA's thunderous conclusion: "ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 994 ALLEGEDLY ISSUED ON APRIL 19, 1917 is a FAKE or SPURIOUS DOCUMENT WHICH WAS GENERATED ON THE BASIS OF ERRONEOUS OR FALSIFIED CERTIFICATES OF DEEDS issued by former Deputy Registrar of Deeds of Caloocan City Norberto Vasquez Jr., in connivance with Registrar of Deeds Yolanda O. Alfonso. THERE WAS NO GENUINE OCT NO. 994 ISSUED ON APRIL 19, 1917. TO INVOKE MWSS and HEIRS OF GONZAGA and MASCARINAS IN UPHOLDING THE VALIDITY AND PRIMACY OF OCT NO. 994 PURPORTEDLY ISSUED ON APRIL 19,1917 OVER THE GENUINE OCT NO. 994 LAWFULLY ISSUED ON MAY 3, 1917 is SIMPLY ABSURD! THAT WOULD BE TO ACCORD LEGITIMACY TO A FALSIFIED TITLE AND TO NULLIFY A GENUINE ONE." (all capitalizations for emphasis.)

The Court of Appeals upheld the findings of the lower court which cited the provisions of the law, Act No. 496. Its findings and conclusions on the basis of evidence adduced before it, the trial court said, COINCIDE WITH THOSE OF THE DOJ COMMITTEE REPORT DATED AUGUST 28, and SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1031 DATED MAY 25, 1998.

With the heirs of Eleuteria Rivera failing to appeal the CA decision to the Supreme Court, the verdict has become final and executory, another blow to the Group of April 19, 1917.

(CHECK this WITH ATTY. YABUT!)

DIMSON, HIPOLITO, SEVILLA, RIVERA & CLT REALTY TITLES OVERLAP TITLES TO LANDS ISSUED TO OTHER PERSONS MORE THAN HALF A CENTURY AGO

THE OFFICIAL FINDINGS OF THE VERIFICATION COMMITTEE OF THE THEN LAND REGISTRATION COMMISSION (LRC) SHOW THAT THE TITLES OF DIMSON, HIPOLITO, SEVILLA, RIVERA AND CLT REALTY DEVELOPMENT ARE CLEARLY VOID AND FRAUDULENT FOR OVERLAPPING TITLES ISSUED TO OTHER PERSONS MANY YEARS BEFORE, RESULTING IN ILLEGAL DOUBLE TITLING OF THE SAME PROPERTIES. THESE FINDINGS FORMED PART OR WERE ADOPTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND SENATE REPORTS.

THUS :

1. Sevilla's TCT No. C-26083 dated August 4, 1970 which impinged on Lot 23-A — along with her TCT C-26086, and the rest of her 22 titles – TCT Nos. C-26083 to C-26095, C-28200 to C-28205, and 30373 to 30374 — is certified on its face as directly transferred from Oct 994. Eleuteria Rivera's TCT No. 314537 covering the entire Lot 23, and two others, TCT Nos. 314535 and 314536, issued on September 12, 1996, are also certified as direct transfers from OCT 994. Thus, not being derived from TCT No. 8004, the earlier title, SEVILLA'S TCT NO. 26083 and RIVERA'S TCT NO. 31457 ISSUED, RESPECTIVELY, 47 and 73 YEARS LATER, CLEARLY OVERLAPPED THE EARLIER TITLE.
2. Jose B. Dimson's TCT No. 15169 dated June 8, 1978 covering Lot 25-A-2, is a direct transfer from OCT 994. So are other titles in his name — TCT Nos. 15166, 15167 (the title involved in the MWSS case) and 15168. Likewise, Sevilla's TCT Nos. 26095 and 28201 issued on August 4, 1979, are derived directly from OCT 994. Not haivng been derived from any of the earlier titles — TCT Nos. 4411 and 4416 both dated Decemer 9, 1918 and TCT No. 8692 dated August 1, 1924 — DIMSON'S TCT NOS. 15168 and 15169, and SEVILLA'S TCT NOS. 26096 and 28201 CONSTITUTE AN OVERLAPPING TO THE EXTENT THAT THEY ENCROACH ON THE EARLIER TITLES.
3. Lot 26 of OCT 994 with an area of 89.1 hectares was sold in two parcels to Alejandro Ruiz and Mariano P. Leuterio in 1918. CLT Realty Development Corporation's TCT No. 177013 was a transfer from Estelita Hipolito's TCT R-17994 issued per Court Order dated October 18, 1977. The Hipolito title, in turn, was a transfer from TCT R-15166 dated June 8, 1076 in the name of Dimson. On the other hand, Lilia Sevilla's TCT No. 28205 was issued on August 4, 1970. On their faces, both Dimson's TCT R-15166 and Sevilla's TCT No. 28205 were direct transfers from OCT 994 rather than from either TCT Nos. 4210 or 4211 issued in 1918. Therefore, DIMSON'S TCt NO. 15166, INCLUDING TCT NOS. 17994 and 177013 WHICH WERE DIRECTLY DERIVED THEREFROM, and SEVILLA'S TCT 288205, CLEARLY OVERLAPPED THE EARLIER TCT NOS. 4210 and 4211 and CONSTITUTE A DOUBLE REGISTRATION OF ONE AND THE SAME PROPERTY.

   Unbelievably, proof that JUSTICE IS BLIND, on May 23, 2001, the Court of Appeals in a decision penned by Associate Justice Portia Alino-Hermachuelos ruled that CLT is the valid registered owner of Lot 6 through its TCT No. T-177013 — THE VERY TITLE WHICH, BEING A TRANSFER FROM HIPOLITO'S TCT R-17994 WHICH, IN TURN, WAS A TRANSFER FROM DIMSON'S TCT NO. 15166, WAS FOUND BY THE 1997 DOJ REPORT TO HAVE OVERLAPPED TCT NO. 4111 ISSUED IN 1918. CLT'S TITLE CLEARLY ORIGINATED FROM POLLUTED SOURCES. Ordered annulled by the CA were two titles issued to URBAN POOR FAMILIES WHO ACQUIRED THEIR LOTS AND HOMES FROM THE NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY FROM LANDS PREVIOUSLY EXPROPRIATED BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR LANDLESS AND HOMELESS UNDERPRIVILEGED FAMILIES.
4. Lot 28 of OCT 994 covering 1,852 hectares was sold to Vicente Singson Encarnacion as far back as 1920. The sale of Lots 27, 28 and 29 to Singson, his transfer on August 5, 1920 of Lot No. 28 to Vicente Arias and the latter's subsequent resale of one-half of the property to Singson, have been validated in the earliest Supreme Court decisions involving the Maysilo Estate.

Sevilla's TCTs C-26084 to C-26093, 26095, 20200, 28202 and C-30373 all issued on August 2, 1979 (including TCT 26086 involved in the Heirs of Gonzaga case), Jose B. Dimson's TCT No. R-15167 issued on June 8, 1978 and Eleuteria Rivera's TCT C-314535 and 314536 issued on September 12, 1996 – were all directly transferred from OCT 994. Thus, NOT HAVING BEEN DERIVED FROM SINGSON'S TITLE NOR THAT OF HIS TRANSFEREE VICENTE ARIAS, ALL TITLES OF SEVILLA, DIMSON AND RIVERA OVERLAP THE EARLIER TITLE TCT 4954 COVERING LOT 28 OF THE MAYSILO ESTATE issued to Singson more than half a century before March 3, 1980.

ON THIS GROUND ALONE — THEIR OVERLAPPING PREVIOUSLY ISSUED TITLES COVERING THE SAME LANDS BELONGING TO OTHER PERSONS, REGISTERED MANY DECADES AGO — EVEN WITHOUT TAKING IN ACCOUNT the CLEARLY PROVEN NON-EXISTENCE of their "mother title" OCT No. 994 of April 19, 1917, the ALLEGED "TITLES" of Dimson, Hipolito, CLT Realty and Sevilla and their heirs or transferees, PER OFFICIAL FINDINGS OF GOVERNEMNT AUTHORITIES, are NULL AND VOID, FOR BEING ILLEGALLY AND FRAUDULENTLY ISSUED.

HOW DID THE CALOOCAN REGISTRY OF DEEDS CREATE THE SCAM OF OCT 994 OF APRIL 19, 1917?

Then Registrar of Deeds Yolanda Alfonso and then Deputy Registrar of Deeds Norberto Vasquez, according to the conclusive DOJ and the Senate Reports, "acted maliciously, fraudulently and in bad faith by issuing certifications or written statements" that OCT 994 was registered on April 19, 1917.

On May 16, 1978, Vasquez issued Transfer Certificate of Title (TCT) No. C-14603 in favor of N. de la Merced & Sons Inc. wherein he certified that said title was derived from OCT 994 registered on MAY 3, 1917, in the Rizal registry. But about

THREE WEEKS LATER, or on June 8, 1978, VASQUEZ BEGAN THE VICIOUS ASSAULT ON THE TORRENS SYSTEM. He issued three titles in the name of Jose B. Dimson, certifying that these titles directly originated from OCT 994 registered on APRIL 19, 1917. Later, in a letter to Ric-Bon Real Estate Dealer, he stated that "according to our records, ONLY OCT 994, ISSUED ON APRIL 19, 1917, in the names of Bartolome Rivera, Eleuteria Rivera, Bonifacio, et al., is on file in this office."

In the course of issuing three other titles in the name of Eleuteria Rivera, VASQUEZ INSTRUCTED A REGISTRY CLERK TO CHANGE THE DATE MAY 3, 1917, which is the original date of registration, to APRIL 19, 1917.

During the Senate public hearing, Vasquez admitted both having given the instructions and issuing the misinformation. However, he claimed he made that statement in his "belief" that OCT 994 was issued on April 19, 1917.

Said the Senate Report: "It is rather absurd because while Vasquez speaks of 'records', he also speaks of 'belief.' Common sense dictates that when someone refers to the records the intent is to rely on its contents and not on one's belief. Otherwise, we run the risk of having beliefs not conforming with the records, which is true in this case."

The Senate Report added: "What 'records' and 'office' was he referring to?" The records of the Land Registration Authority and the Registry of Deeds of Caloocan City will clearly show that there is only one OCT 994. The original copy of OCT No. 994 which is on file at the office of the Registry of Deeds of Caloocan City reveals that it was registered or entered on May 3, 1917 by virtue of Decree No. 36455 which was issued on April 19, 1917." (After the DOJ and Senate investigation reports were completed, the original copy of OCT 994 was transferred to the LRA for safekeeping.)

By this time, then LRA Administrator Reynaldo Maulit had confirmed in response to queries by the Ponce Enrile Reyes and Manalastas Law Offices and Ms. Cecilia Que Yabut that "OCT No. 994 was issued on 3 May 1917 as can be seen on the face of the title itself."

Maulit observed that the Supreme Court findings in the MWSS case that there are two OCTs NO. 994, one registered on May 3, 1917 and another registered April 19, 1917' was "probably caused by erroneous facts adduced in the court a quo."

(In the MWSS vs Dimson case before the trial court, only the transfer certificates of title (TCT) of both MWSS and Dimson were presented, thus showing that MWSS title was derived from OCT 994 registered on May 3, 1917, while that of Dimson was derived from OCT 994 registered on April 19, 1917.

(Strangely, suspiciously, certified true copies of the ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 994 issued on MAY 3, 1917, and April 19, 1917, WERE NOT PRESENTED, as if by mutual consent, respectively, by the MWSS and the Dimson counsels. MUCH LESS DID THE COURT EVER THINK AS APPROPRIATE AND URGENT THAT THE ORIGINAL COPIES OF THE OCTs SHOULD BE ORDERED PRODUCED PRONTO by the Rizal or Caloocan registries of deeds in an earnest effort to convince itself of the "real McCoy." Failing to do its duty, the court wittingly legalized the fiction of two versions of OCT 994 – one issued on May 3, 1917 and another on April 19, 1917. Thus, on appeal to the Court of Appeals and later to the High Court, which is not open to reception of evidenciary matters, both Courts naturally relied on and were bound by "evidence" or "facts", even stipulations, submitted to the court a quo. Thus, credence was wrought to the fiction of two OCTs existing side-by-side. And in line with the general titling principle, the "early bird", so to speak, gets the plum, as simple as that!)

Asked by Senator Feman if he could produce a copy of OCT No. 994 registered on April 19, 1917, Vasquez replied in this manner: "I was referring to that OCT 994 which is on file on (sic) our registry which I honestly believe that the same OCT was issued on April 19, 1917." What an evasive, unbelievable answer!

Said the Senate Report: "This answer is confusing, to say the least. He (Vasquez) keeps on referring to the supposed records but he relied on his 'honest' personal belief that the date of issuance of OCT No. 994 is April 19, 1917. His failure to produce OCT No. 994 dated April 19, 1917 attests to the truth that it does not exist in the 'records' he mentioned. Vasquez was aware of the fact that OCT 994 was originally registered on May 3, 1917 as evidenced by his 'certification' in the TCT he issued on May 16, 1978 in the name of N. de la Merced & Sons, Inc."

The Senate Report concluded: "This is not a simple case of oversight or inadvertence. In fact, in any of the above-mentioned circumstances and at any time prior to the Senate hearing, Vasquez never acknowledged, whether expressly or impliedly, that he committed a mistake. It was only during the hearing that he impliedly admitted that he made a mistake."

The Senate Repot also concluded that Registrar of Deeds Yolanda Alfonso acted with malice, fraud and bad faith:

Alfonso was fully aware of the findings of the LRA Verification Committee that titles in the name of Jose B. Dimson were irregular and void ab initio or fraudulent from the beginning, since the parcels covered by these titles are already titled properties.

In fact, when Mrs. Roqueta Dimson applied for a new certificate of title, Alfonso did not act on it and referred it to the LRA legal affairs division, citing the LRA Verification Committee findings. When Mrs. Dimson applied for annotation of a notice of lis pendens on the Mt. Carmel Farms' title derived from OCT No. 994 issued on May 3, 1917, Alfonso even expressed concern in a letter to the LRA Administrator. She cited Dimson's contention that all titles previously issued and derived from OCT 994 dated May 3, 1917 were void ab initio.

In her letter, Alfonso even expressed fear that "If we allow the registration of the Notice of Lis Pendens of Dimson, what will prevent her to question all titles derived from OCT No. 994 issued on May 3, 1917?"

"To prevent the proliferation of similar requests and nuisance suits," Alfonso said, the LRA should clarify its stand on OCT 994 and the Dimson titles. She decried that the Dimson titles and their derivative titles still exist and on file at the registries of Caloocan and Malabon despite the Verification Committee's findings that they were issued fraudulently.

Fully aware that OCT 994 was registered on May 3, 1917, Alfonso issued on Sept. 15, 1993 three titles in the name of Phil-Ville Development and Housing Corp. certifying that the land was originally registered on May 3, 1917 under OCT 994 pursuant to Decree No. 36455.

However, in a COMPLETE TURNABOUT, on Aug. 12, 1996, Alfonso issued a title in the names of her five children and certified that the land was originally registered under OCT 994 on April 19, 1917.

The Senate Committee found out that the 500-sq.m. lot came from Norma Dimson Tirado, daughter of Jose B. Dimson whose titles Alfonso already knew were issued void ab initio, or fraudulent or invalid from the very start. Alfonso supposedly bought the lot from Tirado.

Again, a month later, Alfonso issued three titles covering 1.9 hectares of prime land in favor of Eleuteria Rivera, one of the alleged heirs of Spanish lady Vidal, pursuant to a court order. In these titles, Alfonso certified the land was originally registered on April 19, 1917 under OCT 994. But the Senate Committee noticed that the space on which April 19, 1917 was written bore some erasures, apparently removing the date "May 3, 1917."

Almost four months after issuing these dubious titles to Rivera, Alfonso went through the pious motion of issuing an office memorandum asking Vasquez to explain why he changed the date of registration of OCT 994 from May 3, 1917 to April 19, 1917 in three earlier titles he issued to Rivera. Remember, this was ALMOST FOUR MONTHS AFTER SHE HERSELF ISSUED THREE OTHER TITLES to the SAME ELEUTERIA RIVERA, BEARING THE SAME WRONG DATE OF REGISTRATION OF OCT 994 — April 19, 1917! That, certainly, was an instance of malice and bad faith. The Senate Report put it this way, "Alfonso ACQUIESED to VASQUEZ' INSTRUCTIONS TO CHANGE THE DATE IN ELEUTERIA RIVERA'S TITLES FROM MAY 3, 1917 TO APRIL 19, 1917."

The lots covered by one of the new illegal titles which Alfonso issued to Rivera overlapped the Phil-Ville property.

Alarmed by the new title overlapping of its property, Phil-Ville inquired from Alfonso whether there are two OCT 994s in the registry, one issued on May 3, 1917, and another on April 19, 1917. In a change of mood, Alfonso categorically replied that the date of transcription of OCT 994 is May 3, 1917.

Alfonso claimed merely committing "an inadvertence (sic) error." If this were true, she would still be liable for negligence and should be charged administratively. But because of the circumstance that Alfonso kept changing her stand on the actual date of registration of OCT 994, the Senate Report stressed, "there appears to be a well-founded ground for holding her criminally liable."

The Senate Report emphasized: "This is neither a 'minor error' nor a 'simple inadvertence' as alluded to by Alfonso. CONSIDERING THE NUMBER OF LOT OWNERS AND THE MAGNITUDE OF THE LANDS AFFECTED BY THIS SUPPOSED OVERSIGHT, IT WOULD BE HIGHLY PREPOSTEROUS FOR ALFONSO TO CALL IT A 'MINOR ERROR' AND A 'SIMPLE INADVERTENCE.'

The Committee Report added: "(For Alfonso) To say that 'no damage has been done' is to add insult to injury. THE MERE FACT THAT THE PROPERTY OWNERS HAVE TO GO TO THE COURTS, THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND THE SENATE TO PROTECT THEIR PROPRIETARY RIGHTS AND INTEREST CLEARLY ESTABLISHED THEIR HAVING SUFFERED GREAT DAMAGE FOR WHICH PARTIES RESPONSIBLE FOR IT, INCLUDING ALFONSO SHOULD BE HELD TO ACCOUNT."

Following administrative investigations, Alfonso and Vasquez were ordered dismissed from government service.

THEREFORE, IN VIEW OF ALL THE GROUNDS DISCUSSED ABOVE, THE INEVITABLE CONCLUSION IS THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP OF MAY 3, 1917 ARE LEGITIMATE LANDOWNERS AND HOMEOWNERS. THEIR TITLES WERE DERIVED FROM THE REAL, TRUE AND AUTHENTIC 'MOTHER TITLE' OCT NO. 994 ISSUED ON MAY 3, 1917, WHICH IS ON FILE AT THE LAND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY (LRA).

THOSE WHO INVOKE THE LAW, MUST COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LAW

Since the beginning, the members of the Group of May 3, 1917 have been filing tax declarations, paying real estate tax payments, complying with regulations on subdivision plans prepared by competent geodetic engineers for approval of the LRA and/or the Bureau of Land Management, and other legal requirements. Their land titles may be clearly traced through a successive chain of legitimate transfers or transactions to OCT No. 994 issued or registered on May 3, 1917.

WITH ALL THIS IN MIND, WE HAVE THE HIGHEST HOPE THAT THE SUPREME COURT WILL RECOGNIZE OUR PLIGHT IN THE FACE OF THE ALL-OUT ASSAULT BY UNSCRUPULOUS ELEMENTS ON THE INTEGRITY AND STABILITY OF THE TORRENS SYSTEM OF LAND TITLING, AND RENDER US JUSTICE IN OUR FIGHT TO PROTECT OUR RIGHT TO PROPERTY — AND TO LIFE!

— THE GROUP OF MAY 3, 1917

Mavericks spoil Karl's milestone

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Dirk Nowitzki led the Mavericks with 25 points, while Steve Nash added 20 points and six assists for Dallas, which allowed a 16-point lead to slip away before coming back to win its fourth straight game.

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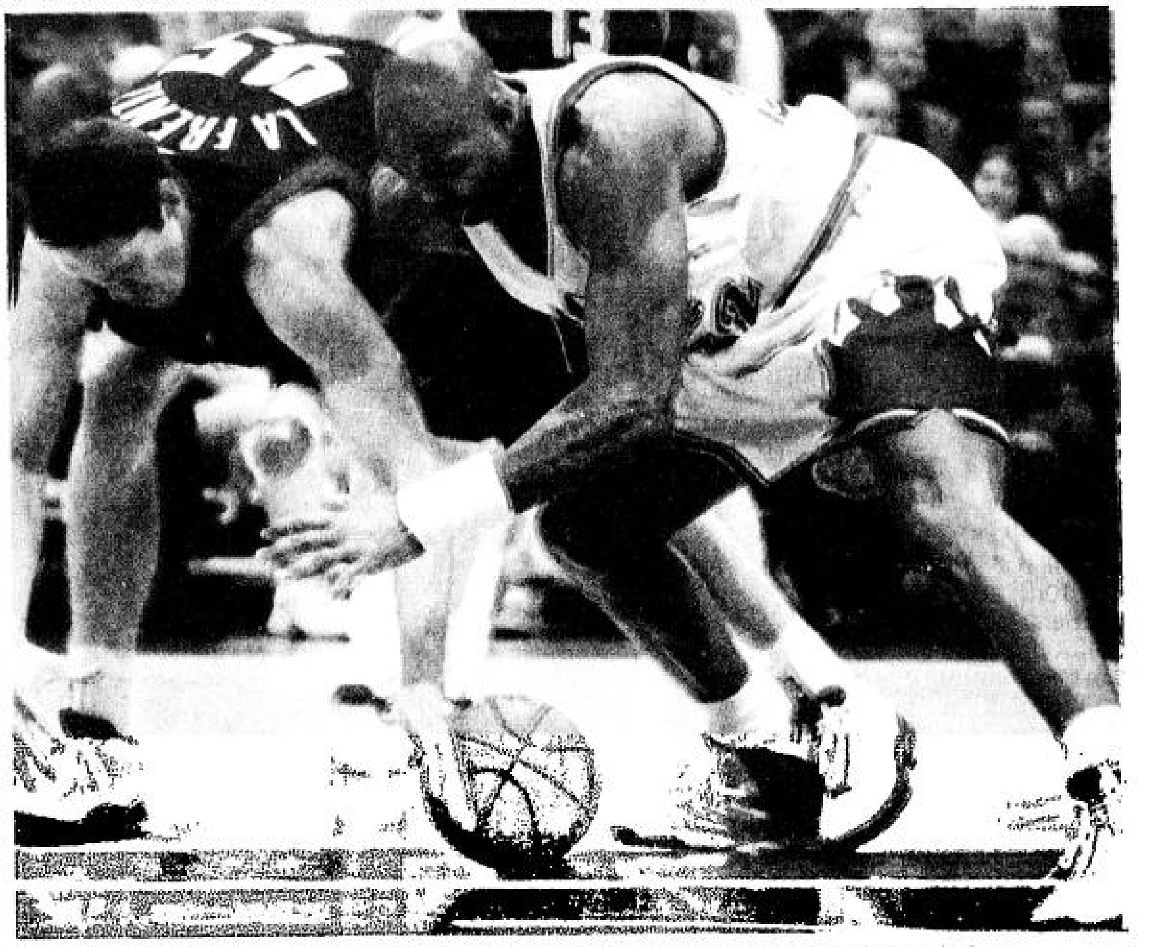
COMPLETE RESULTS

Miami 99, Atlanta 79; New Jersey 109, Seattle 108 (ot); New Orleans 103, Boston 96; Dallas 92, Utah 90; Phoenix 115, Chicago 111 (ot); Golden State 101, Memphis 91. *AFP*



MALONE (right) fights for ball possession against Raef LaFrentz in the Mavericks' 92-90 win over the Jazz. AFP

PBL wants Bacolod team in its fold

By Dennis U. Eroa

COMMISSIONER Chino Trinidad wants sports-loving Bacolod to become a partner of the PBL as league goes regional in the coming conference slated next month.

"The league is negotiating with my good friend Dodong Bascon to make Bacolod one of the PBL's established turfs," Commissioner Trinidad told the PSA Forum yesterday at the Holiday Inn.

Bacolod boasted of formerly having the Negros Slashers, one time national champion in the defunct MBA.

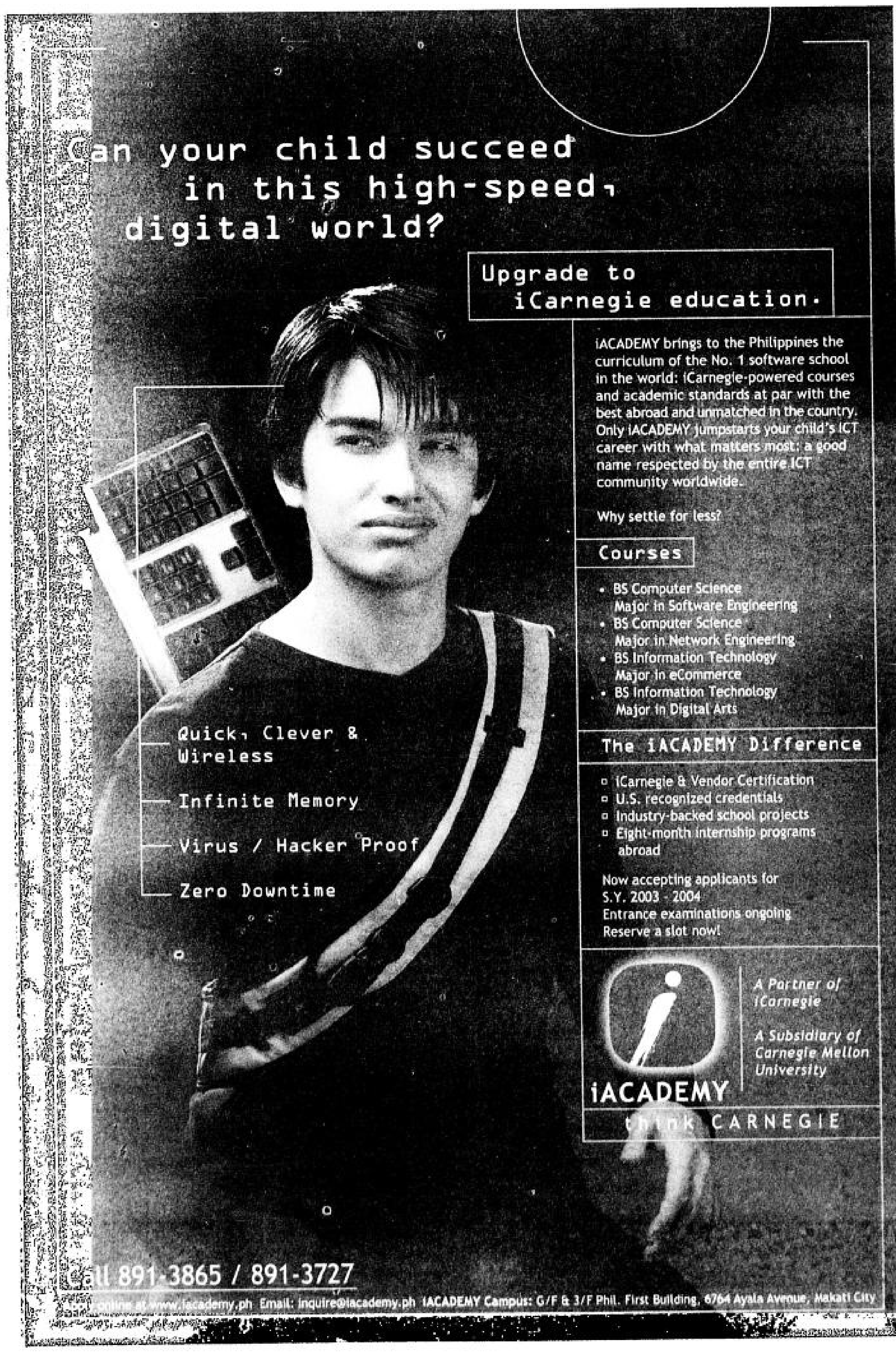
Trinidad admitted that the PBL will not be able to match MBA's regional approach because of the prohibitive cost. Despite being supported by television and broadcasting giant ABS-CBN, the MBA folded up after four years of trying to rival the PBA.

"It's too expensive if we'll completely follow the MBA example. The PBL will have a different approach when it goes regional," Trinidad said.

The PBL is celebrating its 20th year anniversary this year. Meanwhile, Trinidad reiterated his support to the country's campaign in three international basketball tournaments this year.

The Basketball Association of the Philippines headed by Tiny Literal will call the shots as the Nationals compete in the Seaba men's championship, ABC men's tournament and the Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam.

"The PBL is coordinating closely with BAP vice president Christian Tan regarding the PBL's involvement in the country's international stint," Trinidad said.



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BALI RACE

Buenavista lands 6th

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINES' premier long-distance runner Eduardo Buenavista started his preparation for the Asian championships and the Southeast Asian Games by placing a strong sixth place in the tough Bali international road race held over the weekend.

The 4-foot-11 Buenavista even led the field in the first six kilometers before being overtaken by a bunch of rampaging barefooted runners from Africa to clock 29 minutes and finish second among Asian competitors.

"They (Africans) picked up speed in the last two kilometers and when I tried to stay ahead, they even go faster," Buenavista told the INQUIRER in Filipino. "But I was just behind by less than 300 meters."

Buenavista said he is already happy with the outcome considering that he is coming from an injury which prevented him from winning a medal in the Sri Lanka Asians last year.

The Kenyans took the first three places, the fourth went to a Japanese, while a Tanzanian finished fifth in the race held to erase the stigma created by the recent Bali bombings that killed hundreds of tourists in the famous beach destination.

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Go cited the Bali track meet as a good example of holding international sporting event to boost the country's morale and desirability among tourists and foreign investors.

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De Dios rules Angeles netfest

OLONGAPO City's Nico Riego De Dios won the boys' 18-under and 16-under titles last Sunday in the TMS Ships Agencies Juniors Tennis Championships at the Villa Gloria outdoor courts in Angeles City. The 15-year-old Nico, younger brother of La Salle player Donn, rallied past Angeles City's Christian Cuarto, 6-2, 1-6, 7-6 (7), to pocket the 18-under and later annexed the 16-under following a 6-2, 6-2 victory over Davao City's Ralph Barte. Ateneo's Christian Canlas bagged the boys' 14-under title after posting a 6-2, 7-6 (4) victory over schoolmate Daniel Luis Macalino while Ilocos Norte's Patrick Arevalo outlasted Lourdes School's Gerard Michael Ngo, 5-7, 6-4, 6-1, to capture the boys' 12-under title in this event sponsored by Dunlop balls.

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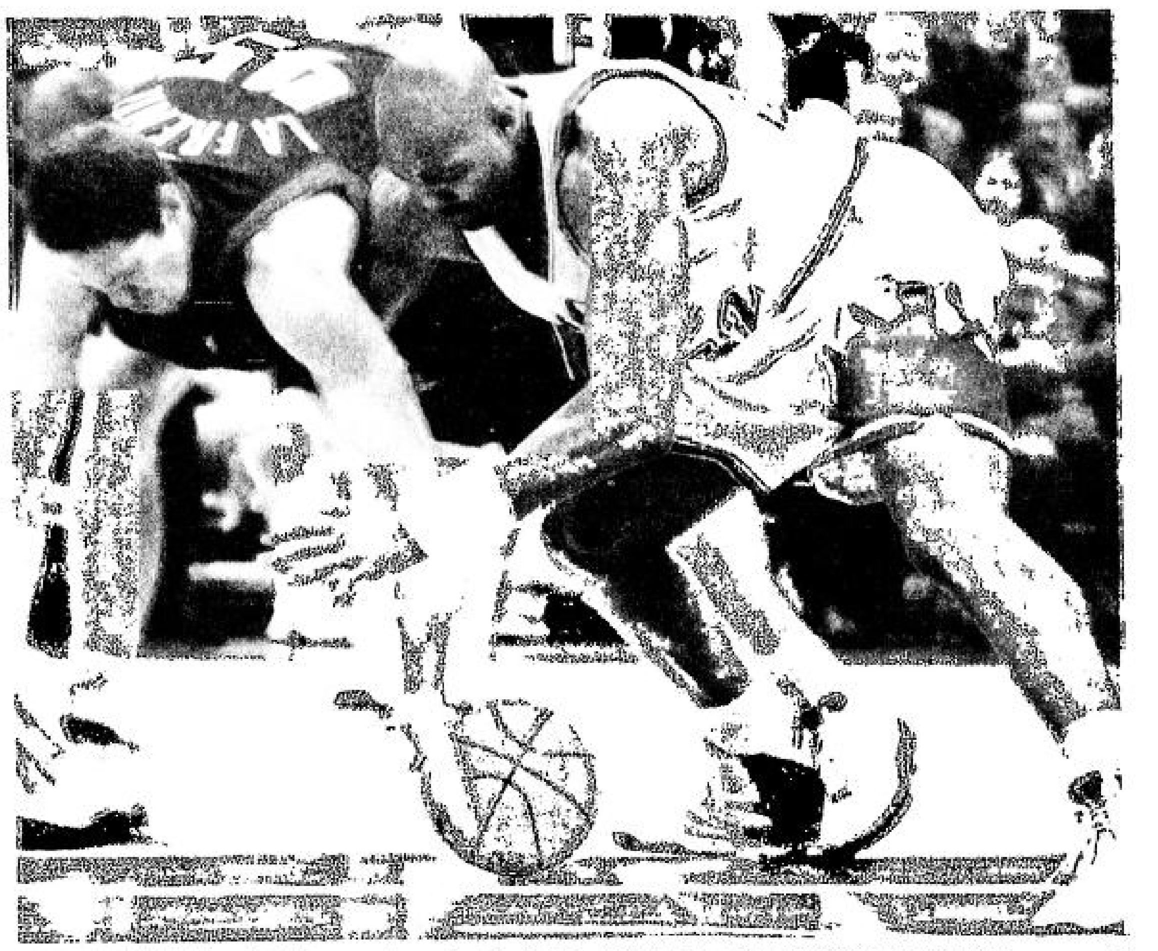

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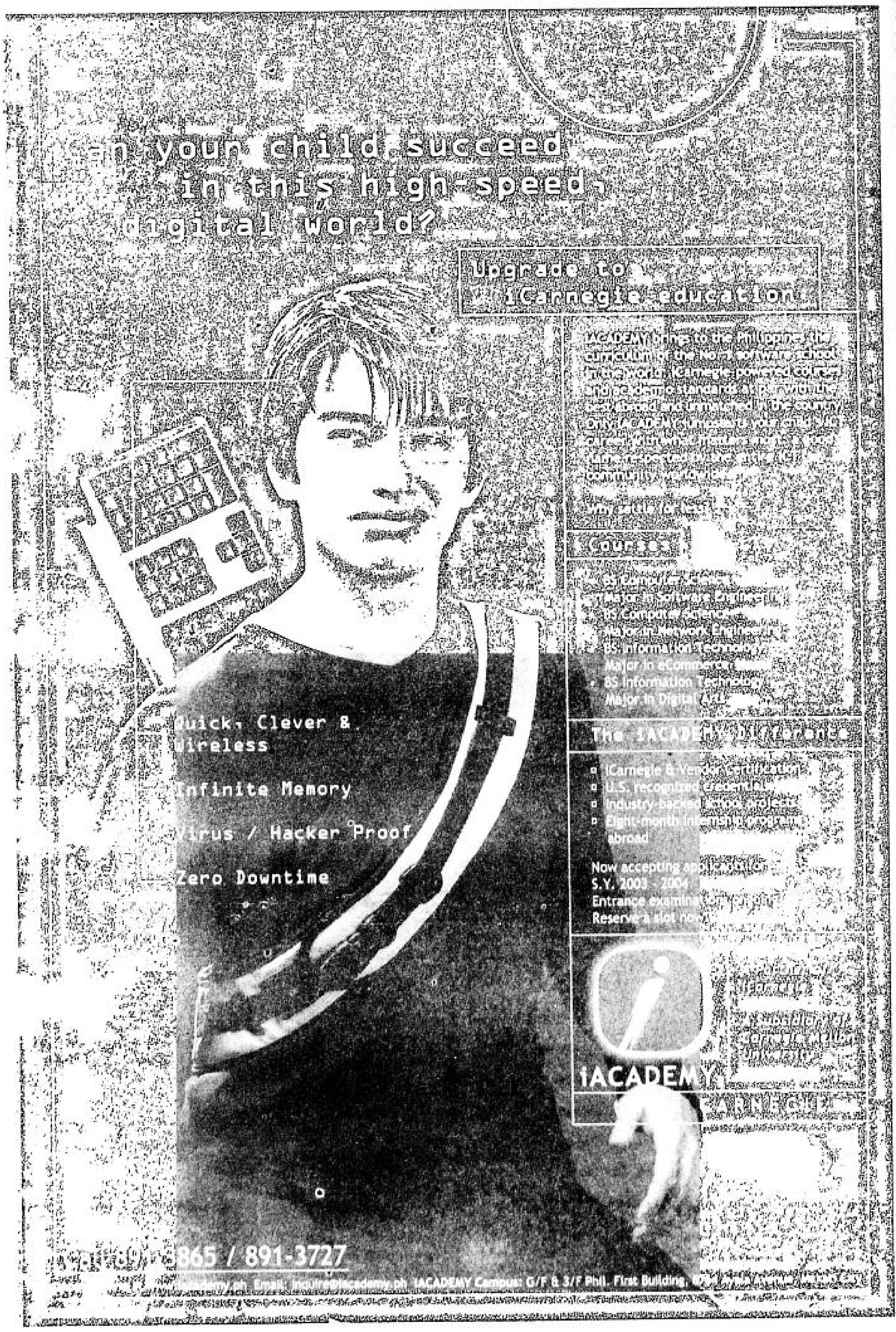

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Pagunsan up by 2 strokes

By Jong Arcano

REY Pagunsan didn't surrender to the will of the wind at Tagaytay Midlands, using superb knockdown shots and a putting touch that was fit for the speedy greens to shoot a five-under-par 67 yesterday and grab a two-stroke lead in the 10th leg of the First Gentleman's Professional Golf Circuit presented by San Miguel Beer.

Unruffled by the chilly winds, the 34-year-old Pagunsan capped a sterling stint that was officially recorded as the new course mark (this being the first pro event at Midlands) with an eagle on the par-5 18th, a vicious finishing hole which club regulars hate most.

Up until he drained an eight-foot sidehiller on the last hole, Pagunsan had the course in control with five birdies, including three in a four-hole stretch from the fourth, against bogeys on the ninth and 17th.

There was much noise from former national players of the same batch as Pagunsan's buddy in so many amateur battles abroad, Ruben Sasutil, likewise made a sudden surge to occupy second spot after a 69.

"Mabuti naman nakasingit din sa itaas, sana lang magtagal tayo doon," said Sasutil, who turned pro in 1997 like Pagunsan.

Both had since posted a tournament win each in now non-existent circuits with Sasutil winning the Eastridge leg of the Ericsson Tour and Pagunsan earning his first and only pro title so far in MRT Tour at his home club Southwoods.

The steady games of Pagunsan and Sasutil drew the attention away from the three players chasing their third leg win this season with one of them, Benjie Magada, starting the event organized by the Federation of Golf Clubs Philippines, Inc. in solo third place at 70.

Two other non-descripts, Roger Cabajar and Rey Alit, managed to get themselves into a small group of five players who broke par at Midlands with their 71s. Eddie Bagtas was the only player to match par 72.

Cassius Casas, winner last week at Del Monte via marathon six-hole playoff, was joined by the returning Cookie LaO and Richard Sinfuego at 73 with Order of Merit leader Mars Pucay leading the group at 74.

Pucay could have been farther behind if not for a late eagle on the 18th where he pitched into the hole from the greenside.

PAGUNSAN: Sterling stint. ROGER MARGALLO

Letran netters shine

LETRAN College extended its winning run to six by edging San Beda College, 2-1, last Saturday in the NCAA men's tennis tournament at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Emerson Ocampo gave the Red Lions a 1-0 lead when he won the first singles over Carlito Rojo, 6-2, 6-3. But the Knights rallied back behind Michael Mantua and Menandro Econg, who scored a 2-6, 6-4, 6-2 victory over Borgs Solpico.

San Sebastian College kept solo second place with a 5-0 win-loss record after clobbering Jose Rizal University, 3-0. Arvin Ruel won over Gian Reynoso, 6-0, 6-1, Edgardo Banaag and Ruel outclassed Elmer Torres and Reynoso, 6-0, 6-2, and Banaag blasted Torres, 8-0.

Philippine Christian University improved its card to 3-2 following a 3-0 rout of University of Perpetual Help-Rizal. Carlo Estrella downed Dennis Canaria, 6-3, 6-2, Roel Licayan and Ricardo Solon clobbered John Motol and Canaria, 6-1, 6-2, and Solon blanked Motol, 8-0.

SPORTSTV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL Blast, 12:30 p.m. (r), ESPN
TENNIS: The Collins Cup, 11:30 a.m. and 10 p.m (r), Star Sports
POOL: Mosconi Cup 2002, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. (r), ESPN
Rack 'Em Up, 1:30 p.m. and 9 p.m., Star Sports
ICE SKATING: Brian Boitano's Skating Spectacular 2002, 8 a.m. (r), Star Sports
NHK Trophy 2002, 4 p.m., Star Sports
CYCLING: Tour of Langkawi, 2:30 p.m., Star Sports

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Woods returning next week

JACKSONVILLE, Florida—A record score. An improbable shot. A stirring comeback. Sounds like more show-stopping feats by Tiger Woods, only he hasn't played a competitive round of golf in two months. Surprise! It's the work of Ernie Els. The Big Easy, as he is called, won the Heineken Classic in Australia for his third victory of the year, giving golf what has sorely lacked the past few years — a serious challenger to Woods. Bringing together the top two players in the world could take some doing. While the 32-year-old South African has been traveling around the world and winning almost everywhere he goes, Woods has been recovering from knee surgery in Florida and won't return until at least next week in San Diego. *AP*

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1990, Frankie Miñoza fired a 71 to post a 3-stroke victory over Eddie Bagtas in the President's Cup at the Luisita course in San Miguel, Tarlac. Also today in 1990, Tonito Payumo beat Sidney Rosario, 6-4, 6-3, to win his third straight title in the Seiko Cup age-group tennis championship at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Samsung Amateur tomorrow

REIGNING national amateur Jerome Delariarte makes his debut in the Samsung Amateur Tour starting tomorrow (Feb. 6) and is expected to stamp his class over a select cast of challengers at the Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club course in Lipa, Batangas.

Former president Fidel V. Ramos will also make a special appearance as a VIP guest of Sang Youl Eom., president and CEO of Samsung Electronics Philippines.

Delariarte will be using the fourth and final leg of the Samsung Amateur Tour eliminations to start his buildup in a year where much of the country's chances in competitions abroad will rest on his shoulders.

Previous division winners at Eagle Ridge GCC, Cebu CC and Tagaytay Midlands GC will join the qualifiers from Malarayat in the grand finals set March 20-21 also at the Midlands.

Sponsored by Samsung as its first major undertaking in golf, the Amateur Tour is part of a three-in-one event that also covers the just-concluded Putting Challenge and the forthcoming revival of the Interscholastics this month at Villamor.

The co-sponsors of the event organized by the Professional Sports Management Group are Taylor Made adidas, Hotshots Flame-Grilled Burgers, Gatorade, Fila, Custom Clubmakers and Greg Norman Shirts by Planet Sports.

The more than one hundred male and female entries will be vying for the top slot in the men's championship, Class A, Class B and Class C as well as the ladies Class A and Class B.

There will be trophies and special merchandise items in store for the winners while those unable to top their divisions will still get the chance to bring home something from the many raffle prizes at stake.

PBA will pay—GAB

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

SAYING he was new in the job and only inherited problem, PBA Commissioner Noli Eala recently asked for more time, assuring the Games and Amusements Board that he would be asking the Philippine Basketball Association board of governors to pursue a speedy solution to the long-standing obligations of the popular league to the ruling body for professional sports.

As of this writing, the PBA still owes the GAB a total of P3,336,445.53 representing the government agency's three percent share of income from the radio and television coverage of PBA games. The debt used to be more than P4.8 million when I first wrote about it some years back but it was cut down to less than P2 million in 2001 after the PBA paid the GAB a monthly installment as part of the compromise settlement.

"*Walang dribol* this time. The PBA will pay for sure," said Joss Villanueva, head of the GAB's pro basketball and other pro games division. He added that Eala, who replaced Jun Bernardino, has given them the assurance that the league would honor its commitment, a commitment which, as far as many are concerned, should be honored because it is the PBA's moral and legal responsibility to pay its obligations.

Last year, GAB chair Eduardo Villanueva already warned the PBA that the stage agency would revoke its permit if the league did not settle its obligation to the GAB. However, the former PBA commissioner requested for a reconsideration, explaining that the league was unable to pay the GAB because of the prevailing economic crisis and Vintage's failure to settle its radio-TV rights.

"The GAB has nothing to do with your problems," the GAB chair was quoted as saying. "Don't blame us for your predicament. The PBA has obligations to the government." So there.

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SPORTS
Editor Al S. Mendoza ● Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

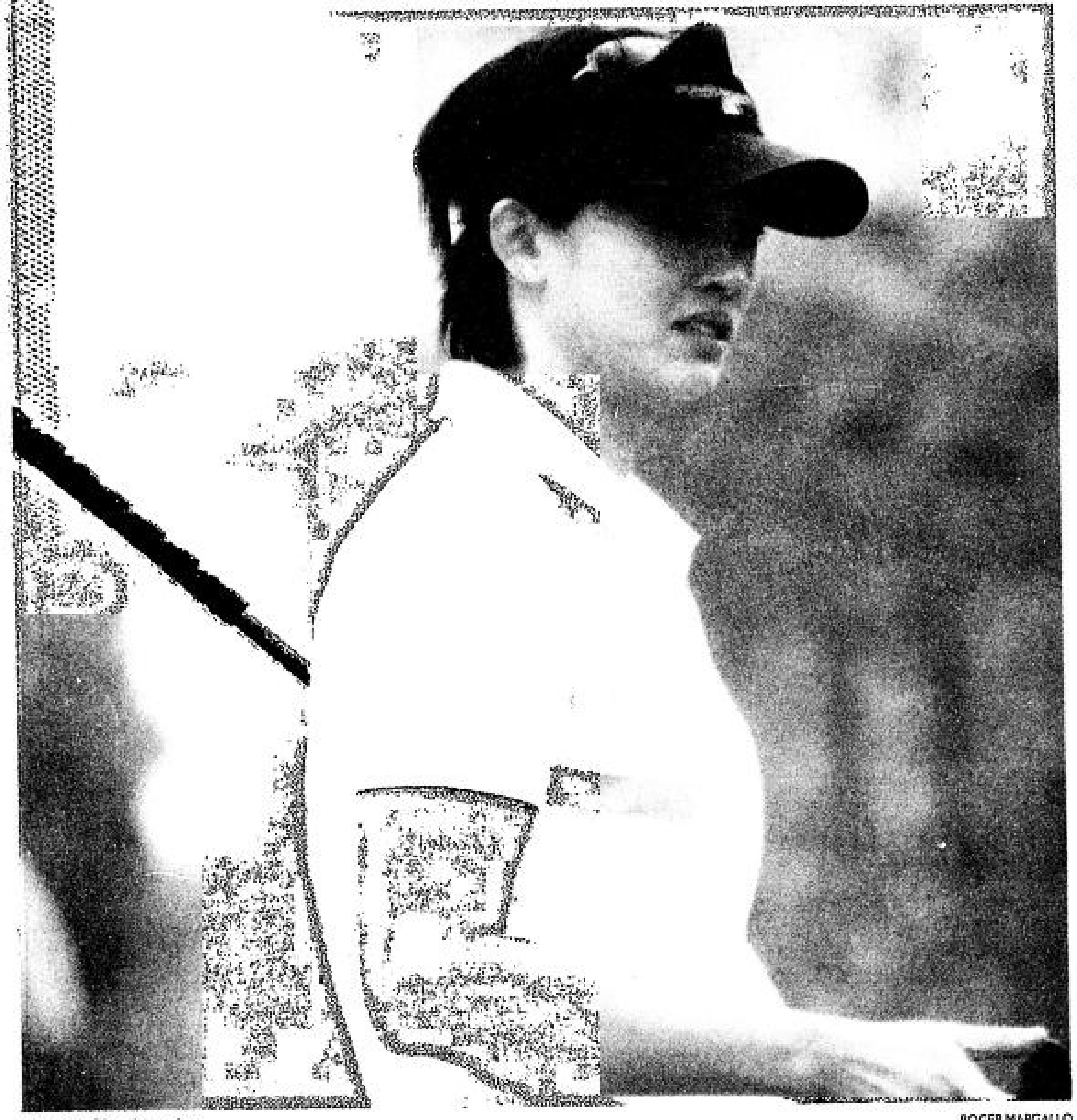
Philippoussis glad to be back

SYDNEY--Davis Cup hero Mark Philippoussis on Tuesday said he was delighted to be back in the team fold for Australia's first-round Davis Cup tie against Great Britain starting here on Friday. He last played under the Australian flag at the 2000 Sydney Olympics - at the same venue as this weekend's claycourt tie - and insisted that a return to national team service was never in doubt. *AFP*

RUBY ANNIVERSARY

40th Southern Ladies Open starts today

Chua eyeing 3rd straight crown



CHUA: Top favorite.

ROGER MARGALLO

CEBU CITY--The 40th Southern Ladies Open, the country's longest-running golf tournament for women amateurs, starts today at the exclusive Cebu Country Club here.

Considered the No. 1 breeding ground for future stars of the sport, the tournament has drawn the country's top lady par busters led by reigning Philippine Ladies Open champion Heidi Chua.

The 26-year-old Chua is actually aiming to make it three straight this year, adding to her victories in the RP Ladies Open at Manila Golf Club and the DHL-NGAP Open at Canlubang last month.

Expected to give her tough battle, among others, are Aileen Rose Yao, Carmelette Villaroman, Lucy Landicho, and Lina de Guzman, the defending champion from Canlubang.

Eric Buhain, chair of the Philippine Sports Commission, opened the competition yesterday by spearheading the hitting of the ceremonial tee shot of the 54-hole series now observing its Ruby Celebration (40 years).

Other titles being staked are in Classes A, B, C and D in the tournament sponsored by PAL, Philippine Sports Commission, DHL Wordwide Express/WWW Express, Marriot Hotel-Cebu, Petron, San Miguel Corporation, Smart Communications, Inc., Mitsubishi Motors, Mizuno, Hans Brumann, WG&A Super Ferry, Directories Phils. Inc, Nike, Hidden Spring and Perrier and Gopez Corporation.

"We take pride in holding for the 40th straight year our tournament, which has always been at the forefront of giving the game's future and present stars a forum to pit their skills against one another," said Alice Ll. Andrada, the NGAP's treasurer and chair of the Ladies Committee.

Chua, a virtual unknown, burst into the national scene when she won at Pueblo del Oro in Cagayan de Oro in 2000. She repeated the feat in 2001 in Bacolod, earning her a slot in the RP Team in that year's SEA Games in Kuala Lumpur.

Other notables who won the Southern Ladies and went on to scale heights include Dominga Capati, Nora Mateo, Mercedes Feliciano, Sonia Tugot, Sylvia Torres, Grace Ebalde, Yvette de Leon, Mary Grace Estuesta and Jennifer Rosales.

Rosales is now a regular campaigner in the LPGA Tour in the United States while Estuesta had seen action in the European Tour. *ASM*

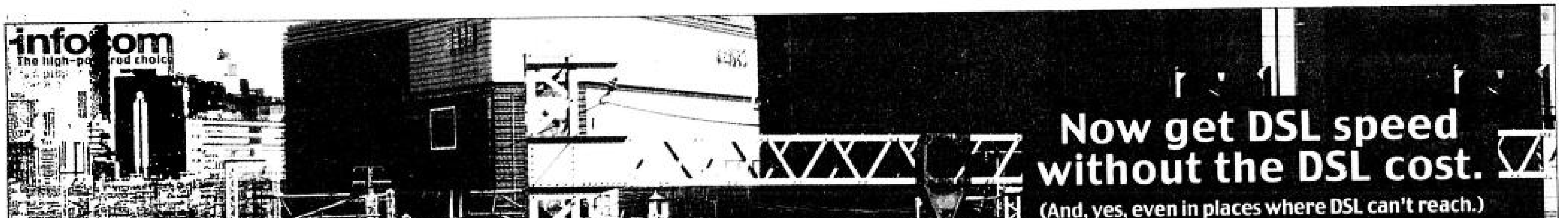
NBL regional meet unfolds Feb. 21

COMPETITION is expected to be keener and more exciting when the National Basketball League (NBL) stages the first leg of its first regional championship starting Feb. 21 at the Tinga Gym in Taguig.

NBL vice-president for operations Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla said yesterday that five of the six teams that have already confirmed their participation–Spring Cooking Oil, ML Kwarta Padala, Shineway Ozamiz, Wang's Ballclub and Forward Taguig–have each won a title recently.

The sixth team–M. Lhuilliuer–has finished runner-up twice in three of these events.

Spring, Kwarta Padala, Shineway, Wang' and Taguig ruled the NBL Invitational, CBL Sinulog Cup, Ozamiz Mayor's Cup, PICAA Invitational and Diosdado Macapagal Cup, respectively.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METRO

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Editor Louie G. Camiño

PUBLIC schoolteachers try to get into the disputed Arroceros Forest Park in Manila to stake their claim in the 2.1-hectare city property. DENNIS SABANGAN

Park standoff

By Jerome Aning

A STANDOFF between Manila public schoolteachers and Winner Foundation officials yesterday marred the full opening of the Arroceros Park to the public.

The protesting schoolteachers, along with members of parent-teacher organizations in the city, stormed the park's entrance, jeered at the Winner officials, and told them to get out of the park.

The protesters, numbering about 250, said that the foundation officials are "rich folk" who are out to stake their claim on the park.

One of the rally's coordinators, who identified herself only as Cecille R., said the Arroceros Park issue is really all about the rich versus the poor.

Cecille told Winner members to "go back to your mansions" and leave the park for the poor to enjoy and for the teachers to develop.

The protesters also voiced their support for Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, who plans to construct a building for schoolteachers in the area.

But Winner president Regina Roces-Paterno denied the accusations, saying she is hoping that the protesters would stop accusing foundation members of having selfish motives in developing the park.

"We have nothing to gain from this park; we will turn it over to the city and to the public as soon as we complete its transformation into a forest park," Paterno said.

Paterno said she earlier received a delegation

STANDOFF/ A26

3 suspected car thieves killed in QC

By Alcuin Papa

THREE suspected car thieves were killed in a shootout with members of Task Force Limbas in Quezon City on Monday night.

According to Central Police District officials, only one of the three suspects has been identified.

Investigators said suspect Dionisio de Vera, 23, of J. P. Rizal, Bagong Silangan, Quezon City, was in the company of two other men, aged 25 and 35.

According to a police report, a team from the Traffic Enforcement Group Task Force Limbas, a special anti-car theft unit based in Camp Crame, was on patrol on Ortigas and Meralco avenues in Quezon City when they spotted a maroon Toyota Lite Ace van without any license plates.

The team, composed of Senior Insp. Ferdinand Villanueva, PO3 Guerrero Fidel, and PO2 Edwin Cuadra, then tailed the vehicle until it reached Temple Avenue in Barangay Green Meadows, where they asked the driver of the van to pull over.

But the passengers of the vehicle reportedly opened fire, forcing the cops to shoot back. Two of the suspects died on the scene. The third was taken to the Quirino Memorial Medical Center, but he was declared dead on arrival, police said.

CPD investigators are now trying to determine the identities of the other two suspects.

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FEB.05, WEDNESDAY 422-9877

Cops seen dragging feet in Llamas slay case

By Christian Esguerra and Philip Tubeza

WHAT'S keeping the authorities from locating the alleged killer of Ateneo law graduate Jose Ramon Llamas?

A man privy to the pursuit operation said some law enforcement officials were probably waiting for the Llamas family to put up a bounty before the authorities decide to go "full blast" in tracking down the suspect, Bashir Abdulrahman.

"What I know is that his location has already been identified and the authorities are closing in," the source told the INQUIRER. "But they probably want to be assured of a reward before they arrest him. It doesn't look good, but we have to live with it."

If this were true, then the P350,000-bounty yesterday offered by Llamas' family and friends should speed up Abdulrahman's arrest, the source said.

The Pasay police and the National Bureau of Investigation yesterday filed murder charges against Abdulrahman, a month after he allegedly shot to death the top Ateneo law graduate over a traffic altercation.

Regional Director Edmund Arugay, head of the NBI National Capital Region unit, said the bureau, the police, and the Llamas family's lawyer jointly filed the murder case against Abdulrahman at the Pasay City Prosecutor's Office.

Abdulrahman, a Muslim trader, continues to elude a massive, nationwide hunt.

Arugay said the police turned over to the NBI a ballpen and a piece of paper that was recovered at the crime scene.

Witnesses earlier said that Abdulrahman shot Llamas while he was writing something on a piece of paper, probably the plate number of the suspect's motorcycle.

However, it turned out that nothing was written on the piece of paper.

Arugay said the victim might have been shot while he was about to write something on the paper.

The lawyer of the Llamas family, Vicente Verdadero, also clarified that the piece of paper that had delayed the filing of charges was immaterial to the case.

The lawyer and the authorities are all confident that they have an air-tight case against the suspect.

Llamas was shot dead at the corner of Taft and Buendia avenues in Pasay City on Jan. 10.

Arugay noted that Llamas was hit first in the nape, meaning that he was shot while his back was turned on the gunman.

Verdadero, the family's lawyer, said the suspect was charged with murder because he allegedly employed treachery and excessive force in killing Llamas.

Backed by Muslim community leaders, police and the NBI have been combing Muslim centers in Pampanga, Cavite, and Mindanao, but they have yet to locate Abdulrahman, who is a native of Marawi City.

Customs seizes shabu-making equipment

By Blanche Rivera

THE BUREAU of Customs yesterday seized chemicals and laboratory equipment used to manufacture methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu.

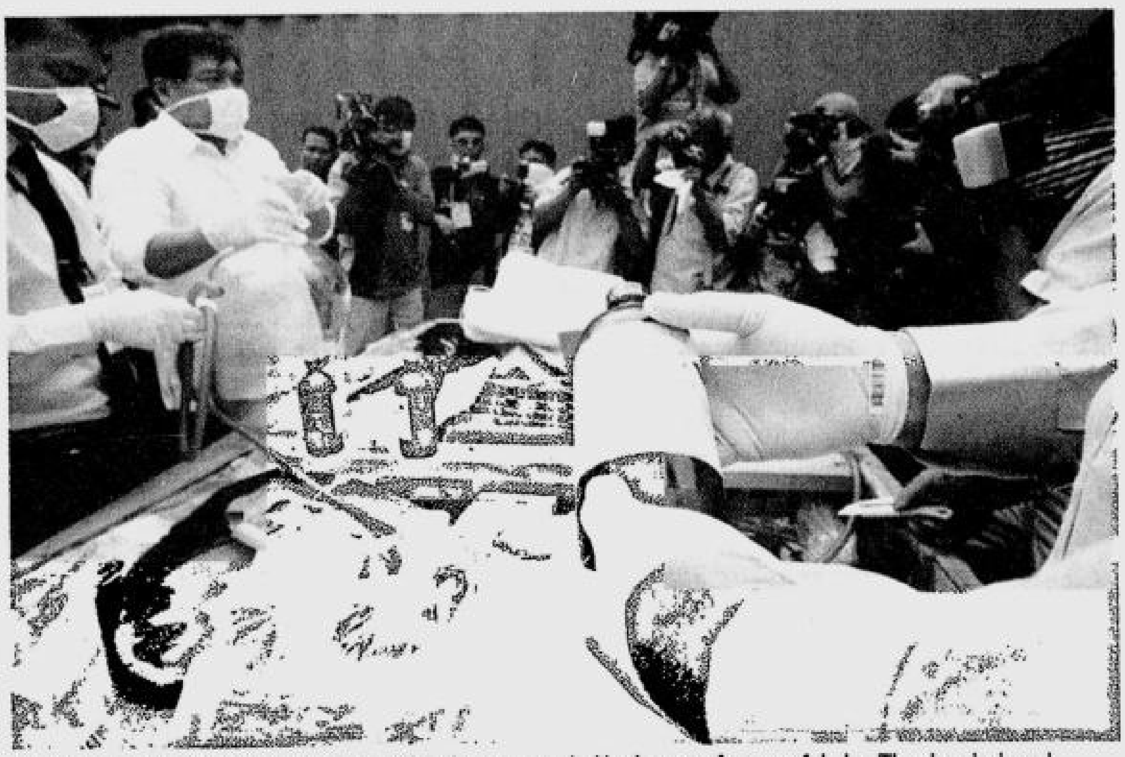
The chemicals, which were kept in a 20-foot container van, were found abandoned at the Manila International Container Port on Jan. 15.

Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo said that the cargo was declared as electrons transmission acidity detergent, the chemicals supposedly used for photography.

But when the authorities checked, they uncovered nitric acid, diethyl ether, flasks, tubes and other laboratory items which are the equipment used to manufacture the illegal drug.

The chemicals and equipment, which originated from Taiwan, have the capacity to turn out an estimated P100 million worth of shabu, according to the Customs officials.

Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency officials said the contents of the container van were similar to the chemicals and articles found in the clandestine shabu laboratory in Valenzuela and the drug warehouse in Navotas.



CUSTOMS officials examine chemicals which they say are vital in the manufacture of shabu. The chemicals and assorted laboratory equipment were seized from a van at the container terminal in North Harbor, Manila.

DENNIS SABANGAN

BF eyes harsher penalties against colorum drivers

By Leila Salaverria

DRIVERS of colorum vehicles better not get into accidents lest they want to be slapped with sanctions even if they are not at fault.

Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando is giving such drivers good reason to permanently ground their unregistered cars or, better yet, to legalize their vehicles. He is set to issue a memorandum stating that drivers of all colorum vehicles involved in road accidents would be automatically declared at fault—even if they're not.

"You're not supposed to be on the road in the first place, so you're the one at fault (for the accident)," Fernando said on Monday, referring to colorum vehicles.

Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios said the memorandum circular, which targets all kinds of colorum vehicles, including tow-trucks, would be issued this week.

"It is meant to make the drivers of unregistered automobiles think twice about getting on the road," he said.

He added that when the memorandum is in place, the owner of the colorum vehicle would have to pay for the damages the other vehicle incurred in the accident and could be administratively and criminally liable for the accident.

The traffic director explained that the point of comparison for the MMDA memorandum is the insurance companies' policy that drivers without licenses are also automatically declared at fault since such drivers shouldn't have been behind the wheel in the first place.

The memorandum circular would be sent to concerned government agencies, especially to the police personnel who investigate traffic accidents.

Broadcast worker rapped for hitting mall security man

By Agnes Donato

A SALES supervisor of the ABS-CBN television network yesterday was accused of beating up a security guard of the Robinson's Galleria shopping mall last Sunday.

Complainant Ronaldo Benalarao, 22, of Welfareville Compound, Barangay Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City, filed physical abuse charges against Ricardo Barretto before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office.

In his complaint, Benalarao said that on Feb. 2, while he was directing traffic at Robinson's Galleria near Edsa, he accosted Barretto, who was driving a car, for entering a one-way road.

Benalarao said that when he stood in front of Barretto's car and told him that what he was doing was prohibited, Barretto allegedly bumped the complainant with his car.

The respondent then allegedly got down and started punching Benalarao, who was kicked twice in the back.

Benalarao also claimed that Barretto had grabbed his service firearm. He said that he grappled with Barretto for possession of the gun, and that it was only after the gun had gone off that Barretto decided to let go of it.

Standoff in Manila's Arroceros Park

From page A25

of schoolteachers who denied that they authorized the protest action.

Isabelo Magbitang, president of the Manila city schools supervisors associations, said his superior, schools superintendent Ma. Luisa Quiñones, never sanctioned the protest action and they did mean to intimidate Winner members.

He said they came to listen to what Winner officials have to say and to get a feel of the place.

Magbitang also oversaw the erection of a metal billboard in front of the park proclaiming the city school division's ownership of the 2.1-hectare park.

Manila Public School Teachers Association President Benjie Valbuena also issued a statement where he maintained that the park belongs to the teachers because the P65 million used to buy the property came from the city's special education fund.

Valbuena said that they agree with Winner officials that the park should be protected. But he said this would be in accordance with a development plan prepared by the mayor.

Paterno said Winner Foundation is not disputing ownership of the park with the teachers.

"We told the teachers that we do recognize their claim over the park," she told reporters. "However, we have been given a mandate to develop it."

HINDI SA
MAYAYAMAN!

IT ALL boils down to the rich versus the poor, according to the protesting teachers.

DENNIS SABANGAN

Paterno is referring to the 1993 memorandum of agreement between City Hall and Winner, which turned over the property to the foundation for development as a forest park.

Winner spokesperson Tina Testa said that under the MOA, City Hall is still tasked to maintain the place solely as a forest park even after the turnover.

But Atienza does not recognize the MOA, saying it was not ratified by the City Council.

Testa said the 1993 city council was headed by then Vice Mayor Atienza, who should have taken the steps to ratify the agreement.

Technically, Testa added, the teachers "have no juridical personality in the issue," since they were not involved in the MOA, which was between the city government and Winner.

Paterno said Winner is keeping its doors open for a dialogue with the mayor, as long as he promises not to touch any tree and not to build any structures on the park.

She warned that building on the park will not only harm the trees, but disrupt the ecology in the park, putting to waste Winner's development efforts.

Valbuena noted that while the teachers were rallying outside a property that is legally theirs, Winner members were holding a picnic in the park.

This, he said, only shows that only a handful of private individuals are benefiting from the property.

To this, Paterno replied that had "(the protesters) told us they were coming, we would have brought more food for them."

Paterno also announced that the park is now open to the public from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, except Mondays.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, February 5, 2003
4th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Heb 12:4-7, 11-15
Gospel: Mk 6:1-6

Jesus returned to his own country, and his disciples followed him. When the Sabbath came, he began teaching in the synagogue, and most of those who heard him were astonished. They commented, "How did this come to him? What kind of wisdom has been given to him that he also performs such miracles? Who is he but the carpenter, the son of Mary and the brother of James and Joset and Judas and Simon? His sisters, too, are they not here among us?" So they took offense at him.

And Jesus said to them, "Prophets are despised only in their own country, among their relatives and in their own family." And he could work no miracles there, but only healed a few sick people by laying his hands on them. Jesus himself was astounded at their unbelief.

Commentary

Jesus found little faith in the people of his own village. Those people did not want to acknowledge their lack of faith; that is why they found excuses to cover up their unbelief. Jesus, they claimed was not educated, the son of a carpenter. This happens to be our tendency too, when we try to camouflage our commitment to the faith: we insist on the human side of conditions set by the Church and Christianity in order not to accept her message.

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NBI closely watching 3 firms engaging in investment scam

By Philip Tubeza

THREE more investment firms are under investigation for allegedly duping their investors out of millions of pesos, National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco said yesterday.

Wycoco declined to name the investment houses but said he would identify them once criminal charges have been filed against the firms.

The NBI had already filed criminal cases against seven investment firms that had duped its investors out of an estimated P600 million.

He identified these firms last week as the Mateo Management Group Holdings (MMG) of couple Ervin and Evelyn Mateo, Asia Pacific Alliance Management Inc., Kimberly Management, Multitel of Rosario Baladjay, the Maria Teresa Santos Trading (MTST) of Orlando and Ma. Teresa Santos, ICS Export, and International Services (Icsa).

Wycoco said the NBI is working to have the assets of the seven firms frozen. He said he has also asked the Bureau of Immigration to put on its watch list the owners and officials of the firms.

The NBI has charged the firm owners with syndicated estafa and violation of the Securities Regulation Code, Wycoco said.

Wycoco also warned people that although the firms may have already closed shop, "their subsidies continue to entice the public."

These firms allegedly enticed people to invest and get a 2.5 to 4 percent returns on their investment. Many fell for these so-called "pyramid scams."

NBI records showed that 189 people had come forward and complained that MMG had taken around P98 million of investors' money.

MTST has about 1,000 complainants who allegedly lost a total of P250 million. Some 20 people have also complained that they lost P20 million to Multitel.

"People should first check with the Securities and Exchange Commission if the firm they are investing in has a license to secure investments," Wycoco said. "And if the promises sound too good to be true, then they should be wary."

He urged other victims of the schemes to come forward and file complaints.

"They'll have a better chance of getting back their money than what they have now," Wycoco said.

He added that once the erring firms are put under receivership, those who were first to file complaints would also get the first crack at getting part of the firms' assets.

METROBRIEFS

Enforcer dies in Quiapo hit

TRAFFIC aide Rogelio F. Paypon, 45, was at his post directing traffic in Quiapo, Manila on Sunday night. But instead of getting praises from passing motorists, an unidentified man shot him dead, said Detective Edmundo Cabal of the Western Police District. Paypon, of Quiapo, Manila, was doing his job on Arlegui Street, in front of the Del Monte Restaurant, at around 9 p.m., when the unidentified suspect approached him and, "without saying a word, pumped two bullets into the victim," Cabal said. The gunman then casually walked away as if nothing happened, Cabal added. He said that the police could not find witnesses who could give a clear description of the suspect or give a clear narration of how the shooting took place. Investigators found two 45-caliber shells at the crime scene, he added.

Philip Tubeza

Battered man lashes back

A BATTERED husband held hostage his own son after his wife beat him up anew in Cainta, Rizal on Sunday night. Police said Danilo Alcantara, 19, held hostage his 2-month-old son Alexander James, inside their own house in Barangay Sto. Niño, Cainta shortly after 7:30 p.m. Investigators said Alcantara went berserk and grabbed his son after he fought with his wife Catherine. PO3 Helasio Gomez Jr. of the Cainta Municipal Police said Catherine apparently outfought her husband during the quarrel, as evidenced by the bruises he sustained in his face. Gomez said the suspect was so upset that he turned on his sleeping son. Catherine called the police and negotiations took place. After an hour, Alcantara surrendered and released his son to town Mayor Nicanor Felix.

Nelson Flores

Sex slave turns in stepdad

A CALOOCAN City Hall worker has been accused of turning his 14-year-old stepdaughter into a sex slave. The 40-year-old suspect, a Department of Public Safety and Traffic Management employee and resident of San Jose, Tala, Caloocan, was arrested over the weekend after his stepdaughter sought the help of the authorities. The man is now facing multiple counts of rape and child abuse, according to arresting policemen from Caloocan police sub-station 5. SPO4 Marilou Rheberg of the Caloocan Police Women's and Children's Desk chief, said the suspect started raping his stepdaughter way back in 1994, when the victim was only 7 years old. She said her stepfather would attack whenever they were both alone in the house.

Tina Santos

The People's Champion! Is back!

'HERO'

The movie as poetry

By Christine Godinez-Ortega
PDI Mindanao Bureau

REVIEW

"HERO" explores the paradox of heroism through the synecdoche and metaphor of sword and brush by the brilliant Chinese director, Zhang Yimou, the same one who gave us "The Road Home," "Raise the Red Lantern" and the award-winning "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon."

Zhang, who also co-authored the film's script, dazzles us with the interplay of colors, the use of natural images of plants and the changes of seasons that parallel the Aristotelian process of change in the hero, Nameless (Jet Li).

In a mixture of slow and normal speeds, the reader is treated to a variety of images of billowing gowns in the air, of leaf litter raised like a screen, of a lock of hair falling to the ground, of drips of blood frozen in mid-air and of Nameless doing a balancing act with the proverbial cup of knowledge on his sword.

Definitely, "Hero" is more intellectual and panoramic than "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon."

Here, the metaphors of sword and brush merge to concretize the characters' inner struggles deftly painted by the director, who seamlessly marry digital technology and cinematography in Nameless' sword slicing through the air at normal speed, colliding with drops of water falling in slow motion, scattering the water into a thousand droplets.

But what takes one's breath away is the way the characters use the sword like a brush scattering fallen leaves or water into a kaleidoscope of calligraphic images in monochromatic themes. Zhang effectively uses the landscape as his canvas as his characters flow through desolate deserts and mazes of canyons guarded by imposing buttes.

7 kingdoms

"Hero" is based on a legend about China's first emperor, Chin Shi Huang Di of the Qin Dynasty. At the time the movie opens, China is divided into seven kingdoms: Qin, Zhao, Han, Wei, Yan, Chu and Qi, whose armed rivalries for supremacy take a toll on the people. Of all the kingdoms, it is Qin that has the formidable army and the determination to build an empire.

It is for this reason that King Chin (Chen Daoming) becomes the object of numerous assassination attempts. In the seven kingdoms, three assassins are the most feared: Broken Sword (Tony Leung), his lover Flying Snow (Maggie Cheung), and Sky (Donnie Yen).

Each one wants to do the honor of assassinating the king. One day, the three assassins and their combined skills kill off 3,000 of the king's men at the king's palace. King Chin then offers gold, land and power as well as the privilege to drink ten paces from his throne to whoever kills the assassins.

Ten years pass before the warrior, Nameless, is reported to have killed the assassins making King Chin grant him an audience. Soldiers subject Nameless to a rigorous body search including the scrutiny of his hair calling to mind the Monkey King's ability to turn a strand of hair into a magic lance.

Nameless' sword is also taken away by the soldiers before he is allowed to stand 10 paces before King Chin, who is presented the weapons of Sky, Broken Sword, and Flying Snow as proof of their deaths.

Battle of minds

The movie's narrative structure and development rest mainly in this meeting between King Chin and Nameless with the rows of lighted candles separating them, tongues of fire manifesting Nameless' emotions and correctly interpreted by an astute king as the two engage in a battle of minds.

Like the famous assassins, Nameless had murderous intentions because this very king's soldiers had killed his parents. Despite this, Nameless observes the customary, proper decorum and elaborate speech when he narrated to the King how he killed or eliminated the assassins visualized in monochromatic flashbacks and in technicolor.

The king sees through Nameless's made up stories and insists on his own version. How the king found out is not revealed and the viewer does not need to know, after all, this is the great Chin who built the Great Wall, united China and imposed one calligraphic style. And it is this same king who ordered the making of the terracotta warriors that kept him company in his grave discovered during our time.

INTENSE PORTRAYALS. Jet Li as the "Hero" Nameless with Maggie Cheung as the effective Flying Snow.

Final duel

In another powerful scene on a high plateau where the two lovers, Broken Sword and Flying Snow, now separated by Broken Sword's change of mind, duel for the last time, Broken Sword does not parry the fateful blow from Flying Snow.

Here, the classic scene of two tragic lovers dying by the same knife or sword is brought to another level when the two lovers become one in death, softening the impact of their tragic ending before the cameras zoom out of range.

Of the international stars assembled for this film, it is Cheung who shines with her taciturn, intense portrayal of Flying Snow. So effective is her use of eye movements and so lyrical is her swordplay, in the air or on the ground, that she personifies self-control and determination, a feat Moon (Zhang Zi Yi), as Broken Sword's servant, cannot hope to attain.

One more significant idea in the film is how effectively power is exercised without having to wield it, or how dangerous life can be when one is in a powerful position such as the king's. Nameless undergoes a change of heart even as the king had thrown his sword to him and confidently, turning his back on Nameless, contemplates the character for "sword" from a scroll hanging behind the throne.

A true hero

We will never know if Nameless' change of heart and supreme sacrifice happened because he realized that in the same way, there are 19 ways of writing the word "sword" in calligraphy, there are more ways than one to accomplish his mission of stopping all the killings, and thereby become a true hero. One gets the nagging feeling that Broken Sword had made the same discovery earlier.

Beside Flying Snow, the faithful Moon is simply scrappy and artless, underscoring two things about ancient China: its regard for social order and respect for its masters, whether of the sword or of the brush, shown for instance, in that surrealistic scene at the schoolhouse where the teacher and the students continue their calligraphy lesson while soldiers fire arrows around them; and, it also shows an aristocratic society where servants like Moon, do not rise above their masters regardless of their feelings and potential.

The film's ceremonious end begins with the petition, "Permission to Execute," in the tableau of the king with his ministers and generals on the one hand, and the swarm of warriors closing in around Nameless, on the other, a chilling revelation of ancient China's tradition-bound, legalistic system which is upheld, no matter what.

Veteran stars and new talents in zany comedy

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WHEN we were asked sometime back to give a talk to the scholars of the Actors Workshop Foundation, we perceived the high level of thespic talent in the group. Unfortunately, most of the young actors still had to get noticed by producers, so they were in effect gifted, well-trained actors who had few chances to perform.

We hoped that the foundation would provide opportunities for them to practice their craft and show what they could do in stage plays. This would, in addition, further hone their talent and give them a chance to act with veteran stars.

Happily, that's exactly what will happen for some AWF scholars starting on Friday, Feb. 7, when the foundation's production of "Mula sa Pusod (Pababa)" starts its run at Music Museum. The riotous comedy is a Filipino adaptation by **Angela Stuart Santiago** of **Joe Orton's** "What the Butler Saw."

Years ago, we acted in "What the Butler Saw" at Repertory Philippines, so we can vouch for the play's high humor quotient. It can be described as a theatrical game of "musical clothes," as its characters keep taking off their clothing and putting on somebody else's garments in order to escape from the long (and wrong) arm of the law.

It's also a great comic treatise about insanity, set as it is in a private clinic for the insane. By the end of the hysterically funny play, everybody turns out to be comically crazy!

Leo Martinez directs veteran stars like **Toby Alejar** and **Gina Alajar**, and also plays a role in the production. Young actors in the cast include **Geoffrey Eigenmann**, **Rvee Reyes**, **Margo Montano**, **Cindy Zamora** and **Sonny Alcantara**.

We trust that producers and directors who see the play will give them roles in their next productions, so that what they've learned in the foundation's acting workshops will be put to good use.

Other performances are on Feb. 8, 21, 22, 28 and March 1, 14 and 15 at 9 p.m. Call 412-2576.

A sample of the first part of the show's plot progression, to show you how riotously hectic the comic proceedings get:

"Dr. Manibog, who runs a clinic for the insane rich, advertises for a secretary and schedules an interview on a morning when his wife is away at an overnight class reunion. He manages to get the applicant, Ruffa Mae Anortas, to undress, ostensibly for a physical examination.

"As he prepares to try out a new contraceptive device on the gullible young woman, Dr. Manibog's socialite wife, Alura, arrives in borrowed clothes. Dr. Manibog hides Ruffa Mae behind a curtain.

"A hotel bellboy arrives in Alura's wake. Alura relates that she spent the night in a hotel where she was assaulted by the bellboy in the elevator, lost her dress and wig, and obscene pictures were taken of her. Robin Binoy George, the bellboy, now wants money plus a job as Dr. Manibog's secretary in exchange for the negatives.

"Alura sees Ruffa Mae's dress and puts it on, thinking it is hers, after which she goes out to look for and dismiss Ruffa Mae, while Dr. Manibog tries to find Ruffa Mae something to put on.

"Dr. Isip, a government health inspector, arrives to inspect the clinic. He discovers Ruffa Mae naked on the couch and mistakes her for a patient. He takes over her case and, based on her frantic answers, he certifies her insane..."

Feedback

FROM **Victor R. Roda** of Cebu City: "I was heartened by your mention that the new Film Development Council of the Philippines is going to offer a workshop for new movie producers.

"I am very interested in helping to revive the Visayan movie industry, which has stopped producing for many years now. When will the workshop be held? I'm sure many new producers will be interested in taking it."

NUT's Notes: We know that the workshop has already been brainstormed by the Council and some leading movie producers, so it should happen this year. Will keep you posted on developments and arrangements as soon as they are formalized.

Jolina faces tough competition against ABS-CBN artists for Araneta concert

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

JOLINA **Magdangal** may not have an ax to grind against ABS-CBN. But her erstwhile network is apparently out to give her tough competition come March 1, when Jolina mounts her first major concert at the Araneta Coliseum.

Jolina will be up against ABS-CBN artists who will do a free show at Araneta Center's open-air grounds, simultaneous with her concert.

The artists are all contract stars of ABS-CBN Talent Center.

Although Jolina is having the jitters in holding a solo concert at the Big Dome, she refuses to believe that ABS-CBN is mounting the free show intentionally to be pitted against hers.

The 24-year-old star cannot be heard talking ill against her erstwhile network, even if she now belongs to GMA 7, although not as an exclusive talent.

She doesn't even want to think of any reason ABS-CBN is doing a free concert also on March 1.

In fact, Jolina is wont to believe it was probably only incidental that the two shows are being mounted simultaneously.

"*Nagkataon lang siguro*," she maintains.

Jolina's Araneta Coliseum concert comes at a most opportune time when she is ready to conquer a major venue on her own. She has wowed big crowds in the provinces and also abroad. It's about time she takes the spotlight for her solo show, "Jolina Mania."

Even her producers, Maxi-Media International, believe Jolina is ready to conquer the Big Dome stage. Hence, the major production for the March 1 show.

MAGDANGAL. Takes the spotlight for a solo concert.

RELENTLESS ANTI-PIRACY CAMPAIGN
Action star and Videogram Regulatory Board Chair Bong Revilla Jr. drives a vibra-compactor to crush 12 million pirated discs worth P1.5 billion during the ceremonial event last Monday at the Camp Crame Grandstand. Bong was supported by the Philippine National Police led by director Hermogenes Ebdane and a handful of show biz stars.

Marvin at AIM

MARVIN **Agustin** goes on an indefinite leave from the daily noontime program, "Magandang Tanghali Bayan," starting this week.

Marvin enrolled in an intensive arts management course at the Asian Institute of Management (AIM), which requires him to go to class daily.

Marvin is excited about the course since his "classmates" include noted director **Laurice Guillen**, who directed him in "Tanging Yaman," and INQUIRER columnist and theater director **Nestor U. Torre**.

Marvin said he is also set to start taping for a new soap series on ABS-CBN, which will bring back the real and reel loveteam of **Kristine Hermosa** and **Jericho Rosales**. The young sweethearts started their romance and gained a strong following as a loveteam when they did the soap, "Pangako sa 'Yo."

Marvin is perhaps still basking on the critical acclaim he received for Star Cinema's Metro Manila Film Festival entry, "Dekada '70."

AGUSTIN. Enrolls in arts management at AIM.

Extended run

KRIS **Aquino** and **Korina Sanchez** have both agreed to an extended run for "Morning Girls" for another season, which means 13 more weeks.

When the contracts of "Morning Girls" hosts **Pops Fernandez**, **Zsa Zsa Padilla** and **Carmina Villaroel** ended three weeks ago, ABS-CBN management asked Kris and Korina to act as temporary hosts for two weeks, while the network prepares for a replacement program.

However, even when **Tessie Tomas'** new daily morning show already premiered last Monday, ABS-CBN still asked Kris and Korina to continue hosting "Morning Girls," which airs after "Teysi."

The two 30-minute programs are meant to give tough competition to the formidable rival program "Sis," hosted by **Janice** and **Gelli de Belen** on GMA 7.

Kris and Korina, who discovered their hosting chemistry with their brief stint on "Morning Girls," didn't think twice about accepting the offer.

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5 SUKDULAN
6 BANGKERO

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Concerned artists, entertainers air stand on impending VAT increase

THE CONCERNED Artists of the Philippines, through secretary general Julie Po, presents its stand on the impending 10 percent value-added tax increase on entertainers and professionals.

There is no reason for artists and other high income-earning professionals to complain about the VAT increase (as per Revenue Regulations No. 1-2003) because it is not a tax on them, it is a tax on consumers.

No cut in the prices of the services is necessary as the 10 percent VAT will be passed on to the end consumer.

This was the explanation of BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno regarding the VAT (on GMA 7's "Debate" last Jan. 23). Then, by way of contradicting themselves, a DOF official spews out numbers showing that self-employed professionals (including artists) contribute only a miniscule amount of taxes as compared to wage earners. This was obviously meant to imply that professionals are tax cheats.

While the numbers may be correct, the statistic is misleading.

Among the ranks of wage earners are professionals who do not stand a chance as "self employed" in a shrinking economy. Many others become OCWs, and the rest of the so-called "self employed" are actually self-employed, under-employed or unemployed (only "self employed" sounds better). Moreover, the data and presumption is not a valid reference because it is not sound fiscal policy to impose taxes based on perceived dishonesty. Otherwise, it would be right to demand VAT on the earnings of government officials.

Much has been said for and against the implementation of RR1-2003 (VAT). But the bottom line is that (even for the BIR), it is the people who will carry the burden of this tax.

This will not only add to the difficulties of the people, it will worsen the political and economic situation.

For the Concerned Artists of the Philippines, no amount of taxes will solve the fiscal problem and liberate the country from the economic debacle it is in now if the government does not correct its distorted budget priorities.

For the Finance Year 2003, foreign debt servicing remains at a high of more than 30 percent; hundreds of billions of pesos are allocated for additional soldiers, police, and paramilitary CAFGUs, while drastic cuts are made on education, health and housing spending; funds for social services is lowered in real terms than years ago even if there are more school-age youth, sick, homeless and unemployed Filipinos.

Much more, not even the most sophisticated tax system will solve the fiscal problem if the culture that persists within the bureaucracy is one that puts votes above values; bullets above books; corporate viability above human survival; self-interest above national interest; and foreign dictates above national sovereignty.

Reversing this is the challenge that the government should address.

MTRCB RATING ▶ R RESTRICTED | Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.
"GUSTO KONG MAG-EKSPERIMENTO..."
raymond bagatsing carlo maceda
katya santos
Sukdulan
hanggang saan ka sasabay? hanggang kailan ka bibigay?
VIVA
DIRECTED BY MAC C. ALEJANDRE
NOW SHOWING

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PELIKULANG MALAPIT SA PUSO. AT MALAYO SA UTÁK.
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SAL
TAE
AB noRMaL College
ToDO Na 'yAn! kULaNG Pa 'Yun!
introducing Jenny Rosendahl
B.A. sa kalokohan, Masters sa katatawanan!
PATRICIA javier
MIKEY arroyo
ANDREW E.
OGIE alcasid
RUFA MAE quinto
VIVA
Directed by Al Tantay
PASUKAN NA SA FEB. 12!

MTRCB RATING ➤ PG 13 | Children below 13 years old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

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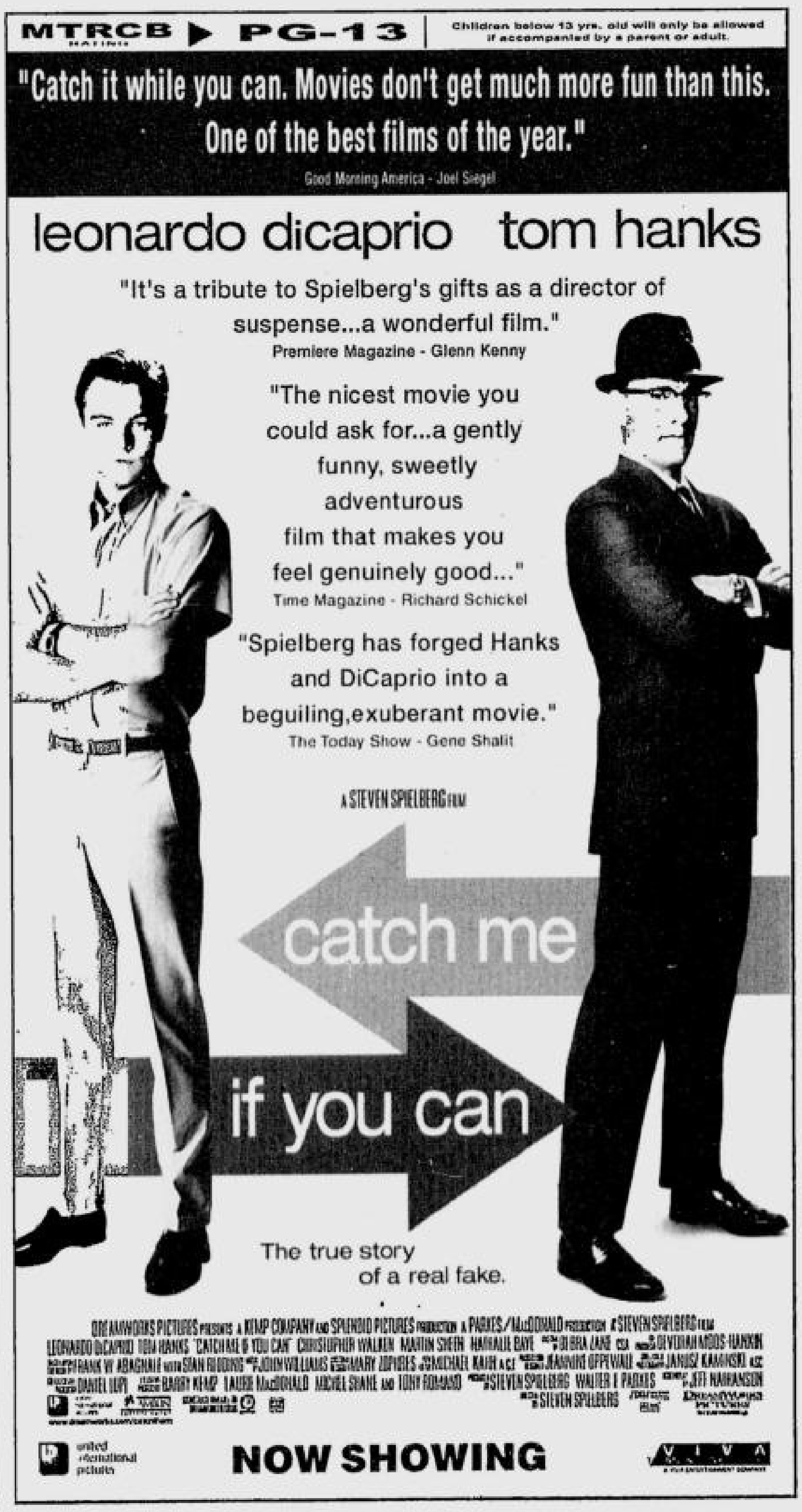
A ZHANG YIMOU FILM JET LI TONY LEUNG CHIU-WAI MAGGIE CHEUNG MAN YUK IN "HERO" STARRING ZHANG ZIYI CHEN DAOMING AND DONNIE YEN
GRAND OPENING TODAY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"Catch it while you can. Movies don't get much more fun than this. One of the best films of the year."
Good Morning America - Joel Siegel
leonardo dicaprio tom hanks
"It's a tribute to Spielberg's gifts as a director of suspense...a wonderful film."
Premiere Magazine - Glenn Kenny
"The nicest movie you could ask for...a gently funny, sweetly adventurous film that makes you feel genuinely good..."
Time Magazine - Richard Schickel
"Spielberg has forged Hanks and DiCaprio into a beguiling,exuberant movie."
The Today Show - Gene Shalit
A STEVEN SPIELBERG FILM

The true story of a real fake.
united international pictures
NOW SHOWING
VIVA

Star-studded founding anniversary

U-BIX Corporation will mark its 29th founding anniversary on Feb. 10 at the Fairways Dining Room, Manila Golf and Country Club on Harvard Road, Forbes Park, Makati City.

To mark the occasion, U-Bix will launch the Konica 7145 and Konica 8031, the latest state-of-the-art printer with digital full-color, multi-function machine.

Cocktails for the star-studded affair will start at 6:30 p.m.

The man behind U-Bix is Bert Bravo, who also owns the popular restaurant, Apassionato, along Nicanor Garcia st. (formerly Reposo) in Makati City.

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LORD OF THE RINGS
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A JOURNEY TO NEW ZEALAND
SEE POSTERS AND LEAFLETS FOR MORE DETAILS
Promo runs from Jan 11 to Feb 9, 2003.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0102. Series of 2003.

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HOT CHICK P13 12:50,3:00,5:10, 7:20,9:30	I SPY P13 1:20,3:30,5:40, 7:50,10:00	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN P13 1:10,4:15, 7:00,9:50
HERO P13 12:40,3:00,5:20, 7:40,10:00	ANALYZE THAT P13 1:00,3:10,5:20, 7:30,9:40	TWO WEEKS NOTICE P13 12:50,3:10,5:30, 7:50,10:10

MATINEE ₱80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

AYALA CINEMAS

NOW SHOWING only at
ArtFilm Greenbelt 1

Off Key, aka Desafinado, is a Spanish comedy made in English featuring an international cast.

It is the story of three operatic tenors who performed all over the world together, until a disastrous performance in Mexico City, where they split for good. Now, they are getting together at the French Villa for the wedding of one of the three tenors to the daughter of another. To further complicate things, the bride's mother is married to the third trio member now. The father of the bride, who has fallen on hard times, hires a hooker to accompany him, and to help with his plot to reunite the trio as performers. The groom-to-be has a son, who isn't really his, and who secretly has the hots for the bride's mother.

Starring:
Danny Aiello, George Hamilton, Joe Mantegna
Anna Galiena & Ariadna Gil

OFFKEY
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13
SKYFILMS NOKIA INQUIRER

MTRCB RATING R RESTRICTED | Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted

TIME
"A POWERFUL FILM!"
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ROLLING STONE
"'8 MILE' IS A CINEMATIC EVENT.
Peter Travers
NEWSWEEK
"A STUNNING ACTING DEBUT".
David Ansen

8 Mile

Soundtrack featuring:
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'Wanksta' by 50 cent

EMINEM KIM BASINGER BRITTANY MURPHY MEKHI PHIFER

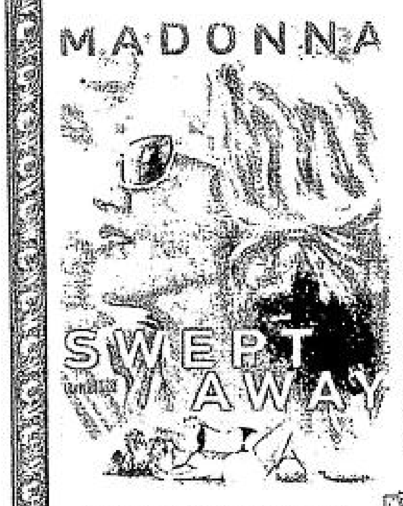
myx

NOW SHOWING

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7	
Ali 1	SUKDULAN
Ali 2	THE RING
Ali 3	I SPY
Ali 4	HERO
Ali 5	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
Ali 6	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
Ali 7	BELOW
FARMERS PLAZA CINEMAS	
Farmers 1	BALAT SIBUYAS
Farmers 2	I SPY
ARANETA COLISEUM	
FEB 3 & 5	NCA 7 COCK DERBY
FEB 8	LANI MISALUCHA CONCERT
FEB 15	ABBA TRIBUTE CONCERT
ELEPHANT WORLD	
FEB 5	10 PM / 3 PM
FEB 6	10 AM / 3 PM
FEB 7	10 AM / 3 PM

MADONNA



SWEPT AWAY

AYALA CINEMAS
Laugh out loud & fall in love this February only at
ArtFilm Greenbelt 1
Imagine being shipwrecked on a beautiful island - with someone you really can't stand.

Madonna, Adriano Giannini, Bruce Greenwood, Jeanne Tripplehorn & David Thornton

Guy Ritchie directs wife MADONNA in this romantic comedy, where a young sailor (ADRIANO GIANNINI) is cast adrift on an island with his employer, a rich self-centered woman who is used to having her way. Cut off from society, he reverses their roles, stripping her of her pride and controlling her completely. Until, that is, she falls in love with him.

OPENS FEBRUARY 12

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18
COLUMBIA PICTURES NOKIA INQUIRER

THEY'RE BACK!
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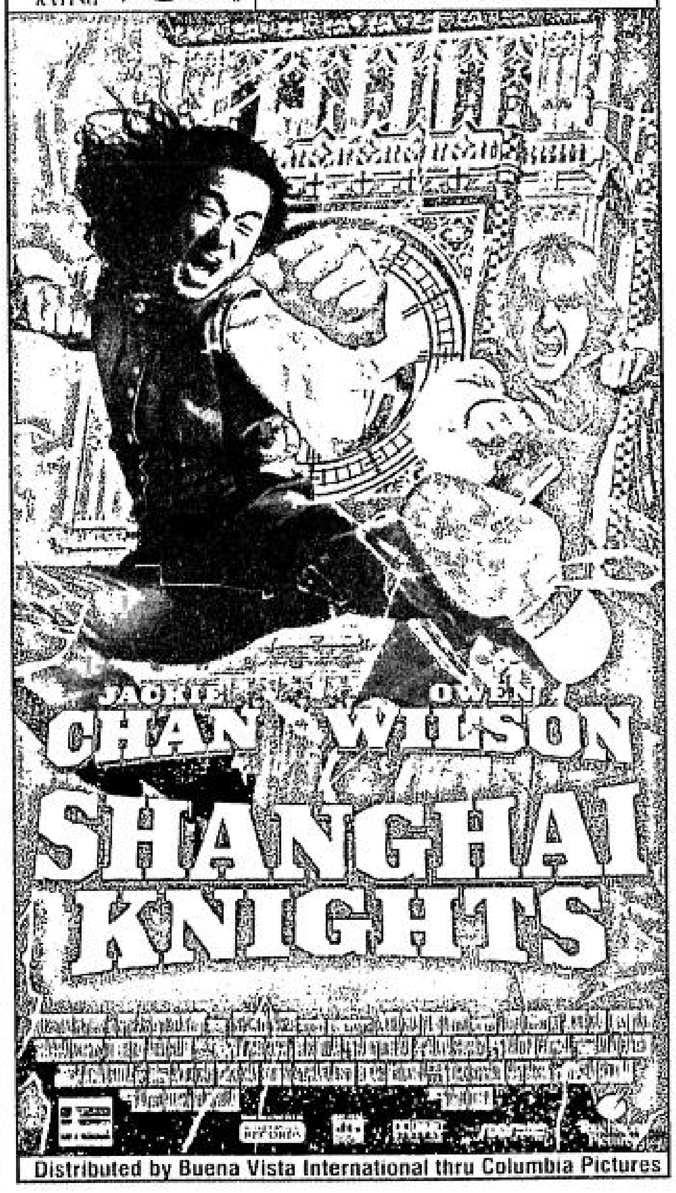
OPENS FEBRUARY 12!
MTRCB RATING G General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED



JACKIE CHAN OWEN WILSON
SHANGHAI KNIGHTS

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	BIYAHERA / POSSESSION
ODEON	FEMME FATAL
ODEON-2	SAMBAHIN ANG PURI / TUKAAN
ROBEN	SUKDULAN
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	RED DRAGON / TRAP
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	SUKDULAN
CORONET B	UNFAITHFUL / ACCIDENTAL SPY
QUEZON-1	MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO
REMAR	SUKDULAN
REMAR-2	MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	SUKDULAN
B	BALAT SIBUYAS
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	I SPY
CINEMA-2	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BALAT SIBUYAS
CINEMA-2	MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO
CINEMA-3	THE RING
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	FEMME FATALE
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-6	HERO
CINEMA-7	8 MILE
CINEMA-8	HOT CHICK
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	HERO
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TWO WEEKS NOTICE
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	I SPY
CINEMA-12	CATCH ME IF YOU CAN
CINEMA-14	BELOW
CINEMA-15	SUKDULAN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	DIE ANOTHER DAY
CINEMA 2	BAHID
CINEMA 3	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA 4	CHANGING LANES
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

OPENS FEB. 12
PREMIERE NIGHT (FEB. 8), 7:30 P.M. AT SM MEGAMALL 10
ALL TICKETS ISSUED LAST JAN. 7 ARE VALID
MTRCB RATING G General Patronage ALL AGES ADMITTED

1. Truly a magnificent film. Bravo, Magnifico! – Butch Francisco, *The Phil. Star*
2. The first really good movie of 2003! – Lito B. Zulueta, *Philippine Daily Inquirer*
3. Magnifico is Magnificent! – Mario Hernando, *Malaya*
4. "Pang-Oscar ang kakdad ng Magnifico" – Archie de Calma, *Imbestigador*
5. "Would that we all support this movie with lots of heart and the strength of its quite and hopeful honesty." – Rina Jimenez-David, *Philippine Daily Inquirer*
6. The whole thing is very Pinoy and is a particularly welcome intrusion in our times when people are despairing in this country. – Conrado de Quiros, *Philippine Daily Inquirer*

Ms. GLORIA ROMERO Ms. CELIA RODRIGUEZ AMY AUSTRIA
DANILO BARRIOS MARK GIL CHERRY PIE PICACHE
ALBERT MARTINEZ TONTON GUTIERREZ
and LORNA TOLENTINO
JIRO MANIO as

Magnifico
Introducing
GIRLIE SEVILLA

Walang katumbas ang wagas na pagmamahal

ALLISON VII GONZALES
JON ROMANO & SUSAN AFRICA
ISABELLA DE LEON
DINDIN LLARENA JOSEPH ROBLE
Theme song sung by:
GARY VALENCIANO

Directed by Maryo J. de los Reyes, DGPI
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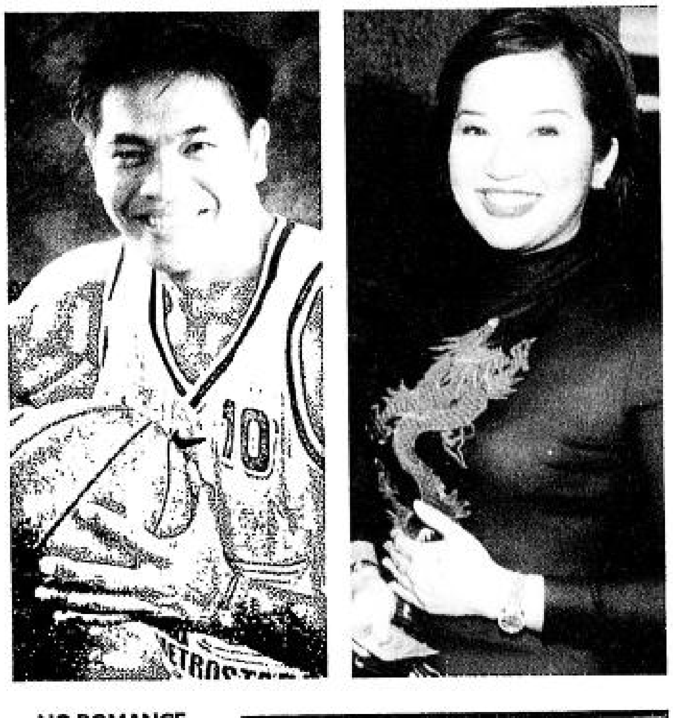
ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

KRIS-ROMEL 'ROMANCE'?

He offers only friendship to her, for now

By Marinel R. Cruz



NO ROMANCE, YET. Pro-league cager Romel Adducul and TV host Kris Aquino are mere friends.

"FRIENDSHIP" is what Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) cager Romel Adducul can offer TV host Kris Aquino at this point, after the latter admitted they went out on a movie date last week.

The 6-foot-5 Barangay Ginebra rookie last Monday told the INQUIRER that he plans to concentrate on his first year as a pro-league player.

"This year is a crucial year for me," said Romel, who recently signed a four-year P12.7-million contract with the Ginebra Kings.

"I want to concentrate on my career since this is my rookie year in the PBA."

When asked if he has plans of courting Kris, Romel said he is not closing his doors to the possibility.

"All I can say is that we're really good friends now," Romel said. "I learn a lot from her. She is very frank and she says what's in her heart. I find her very smart and I enjoy talking with her.

"I'm sure Kris feels the same for me. Otherwise, she wouldn't even spend time talking with me."

The former Welcoat Paints cager who became a two-time Most Valuable Player in the Philippine Basketball League (PBL), went out on his first date with Kris when they watched the Steven Spielberg movie, "Catch Me If You Can," at Greenbelt 3 Cinemas.

Break up

Their date came four days after Kris had broken up with Parañaque City Mayor Joey Marquez.

But Romel pointed out he was not the cause of the break up of Kris and Joey.

"I have nothing to do with their breakup, *labas ako d'on*," he said. "I actually don't know what happened to their relationship. I'm sure people who closely watch their relationship are aware of that."

Prior to Kris' involvement with Joey, she became the live-in partner of action star Phillip Salvador, with whom she has a love child, Joshua, now seven years old.

Romel, meanwhile, said he has not had any girlfriends since he broke up with sexy actress Assunta de Rossi two years ago.

The separation was allegedly caused by Romel's being a Born-Again Christian. He was reportedly very displeased with Assunta when the actress started accepting sexy roles onscreen.

Comfortable

But with Kris, who is a Catholic, Romel said his religion has never been an issue.

"It doesn't matter if we have different religious beliefs. It is our relationship with God that matters," he pointed out. "I feel comfortable opening up to Kris about my beliefs about God."

Kris will turn 32 on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, while Romel is only 27.

Assunta tied the knot with Negros Occidental Representative Jules Ledesma in a civil wedding in December last year.

"Assunta and I used to talk even after we had long broken up, but we stopped communicating after she got married," the cager said.

Romel added he last saw Assunta on the day he went out for a movie with Kris. "It was actually Kris who saw Assunta first. Assunta and I simply said hi to each other."

He used to advise the actress to reach out to her mom Nenita Schiavone and sister actress Alessandra de Rossi. "I believe that the support of her family is important in order for her marriage with Jules to work," Romel said.

Getting along well

He was pleased that something good came out of his effort to reconcile Assunta with her family.

"They're okay now. I heard from my manager (Ed Ponceja) that Assunta is now getting along well with her mom and sister," Romel said.

Unlike some PBA stars who were lured to join show business, Romel said he would rather play on the hard court than act on the big screen.

"I'm an introvert. I'd feel more comfortable playing on the hard court for four hours than standing before the cameras for four minutes," he said.

Romel is set to finish his business management course in San Sebastian College this March.

Kris, meanwhile, is set to come out in a movie with Robin Padilla for FLT Films, titled "You And Me Against the World."

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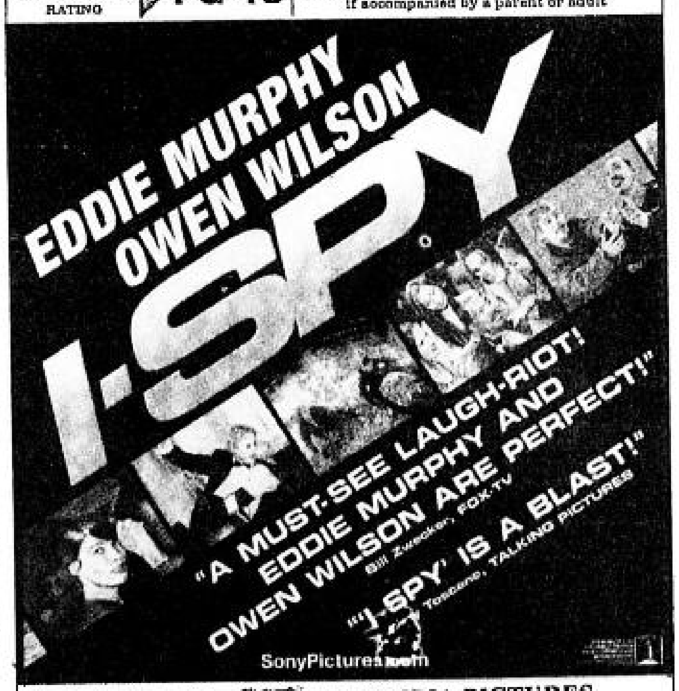

EDDIE MURPHY
OWEN WILSON
I-SPY
"A MUST-SEE LAUGH-RIOT! EDDIE MURPHY AND OWEN WILSON ARE PERFECT!" Bill Zwecker, FOX-TV
"'I-SPY' IS A BLAST!" Toscano, TALKING PICTURES
SonyPictures.com

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El crimen del Padre Amaro

MTRCB Rating
R-18
National Commission for Culture and the Arts – CVRP
Mowelfund Film Institute
present
BLG.10
PELIKULA at LIPUNAN
Film Festival 2003
Opening Film
EL CRIMEN
DEL PADRE AMARO
(THE CRIME OF FATHER AMARO)
by Carlos Carrera (Mexico)
12 Feb 2003 9:30 pm
Pebrero 12 - 18 SM Megamall
Pebrero 21 - 23 SM Iloilo
Pebrero 26 - Marso 1 Baguio

GRAND OPENING TODAY!
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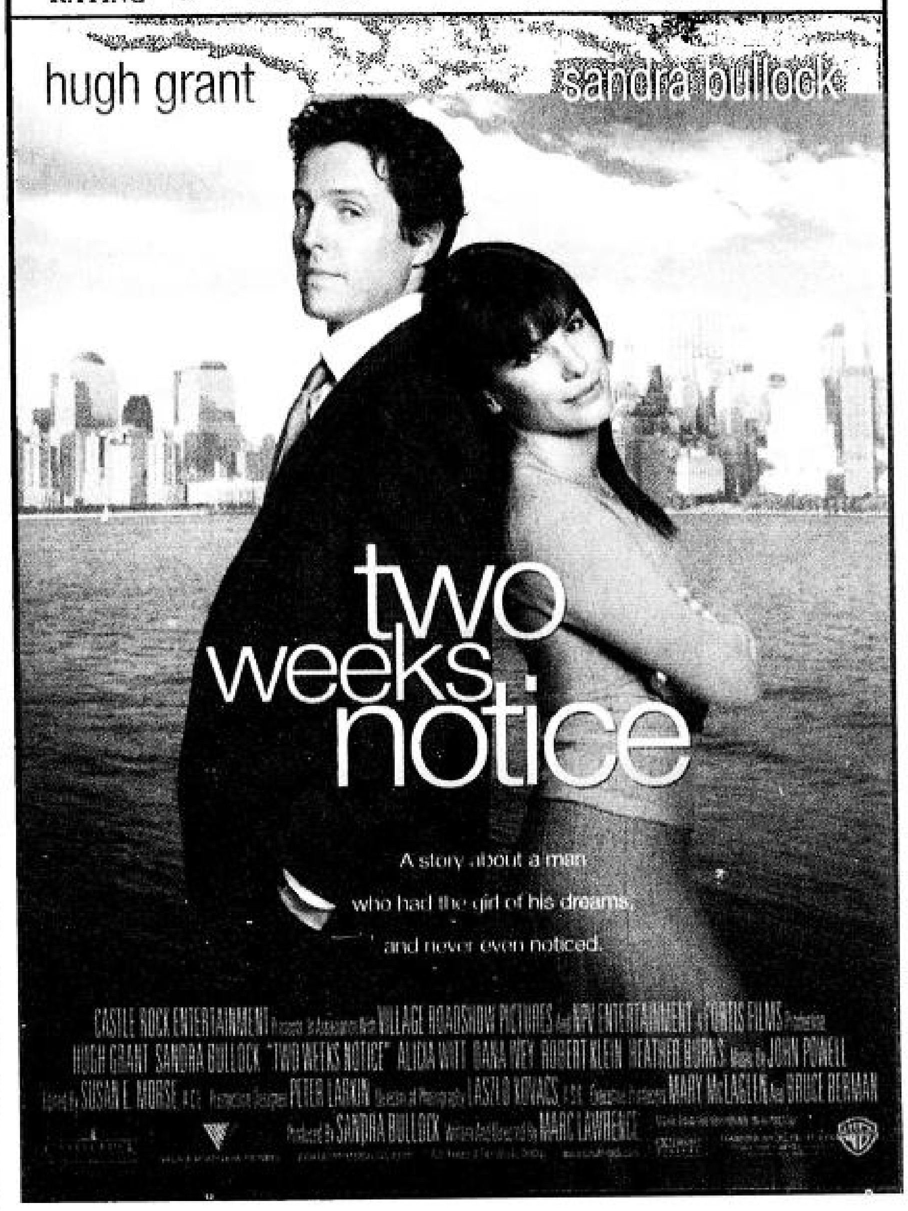

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sandra bullock
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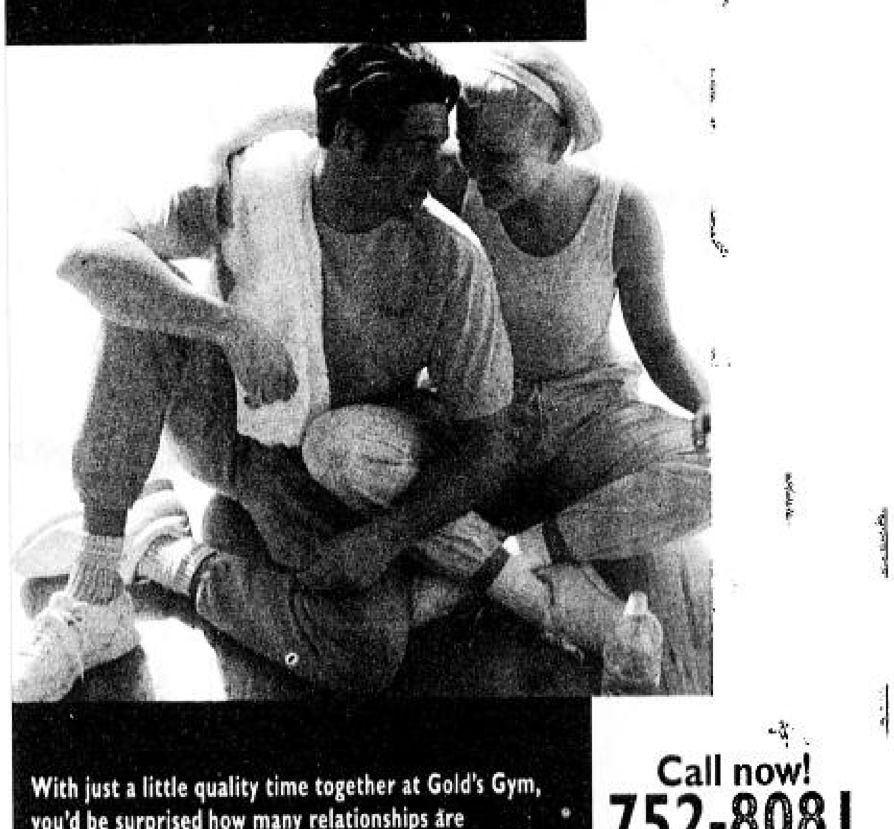

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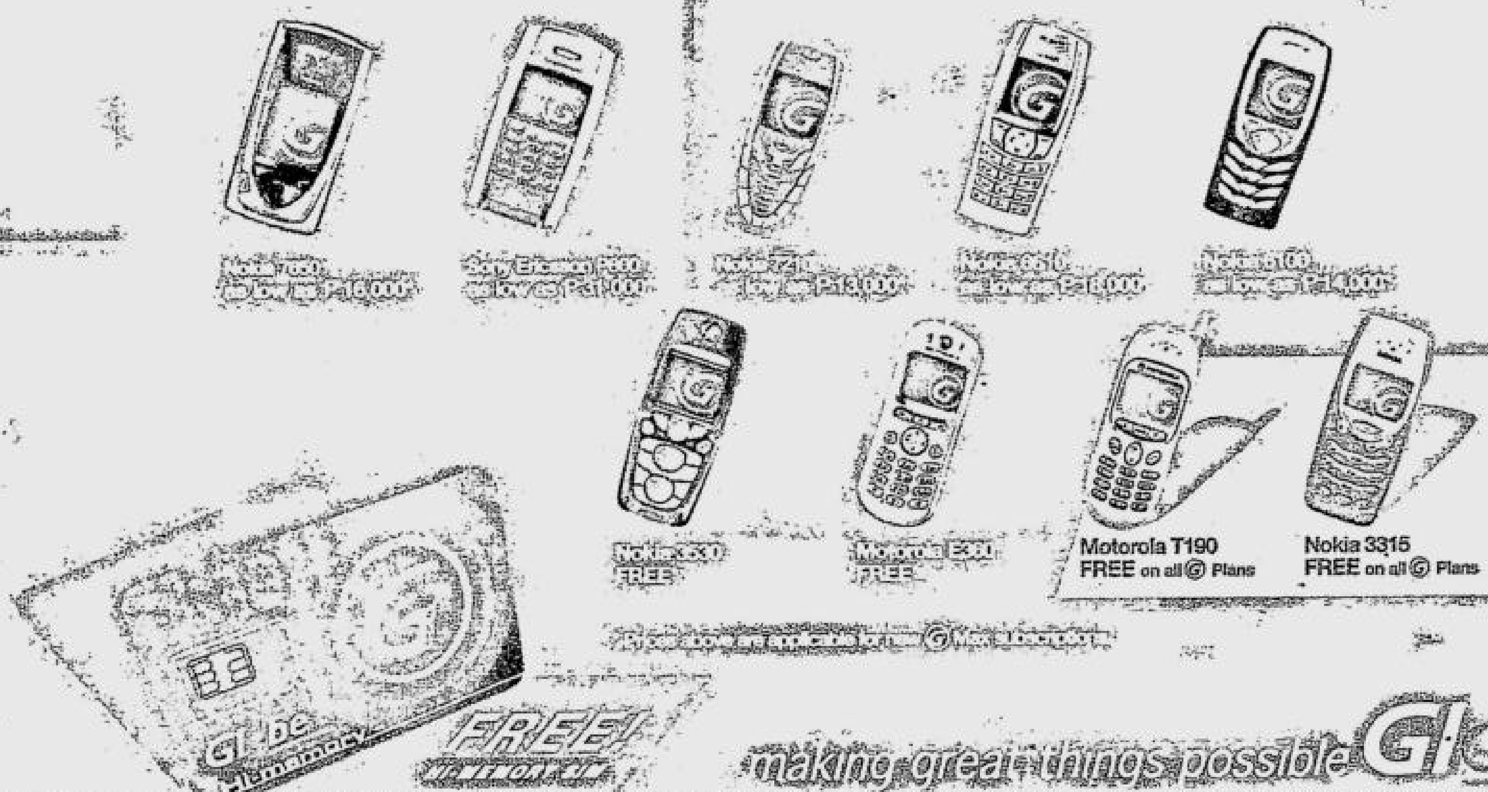
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BUSINESS

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Exports up 9% in '02; steady growth seen

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S merchandise exports grew by 9 percent in 2002, exceeding the government's target as higher regional demand made up for weaker sales to the Philippines' main trading partner, the United States.

However, analysts noted that the risk of war in Iraq and a further slowdown in US demand could cloud prospects for the overall economy, which the government estimated would grow by 4.2 to 5.2 percent this year.

The National Statistics Office (NSO) reported yesterday that 2002 exports stood at $35.06 billion against $32.15 billion in 2001.

In December alone, exports were up by 10 percent at $2.91 billion from $2.64 billion a year ago as strong growth in shipments to Asian countries offset the drop in sales to the United States.

The government said the key electronics sector saw export receipts rising 11.7 percent in December to $1.08 billion, accounting for 37.2 percent of export revenues for the month. Garments exports rose 14.3 percent to $250.85 million, accounting for 8.6 percent of the total.

The NSO said exports to the United States fell by 3.36 percent in 2002. Shipments to China showed the strongest growth among the Philippines' top 10 trading partners last year, jumping 70.62 percent last year.

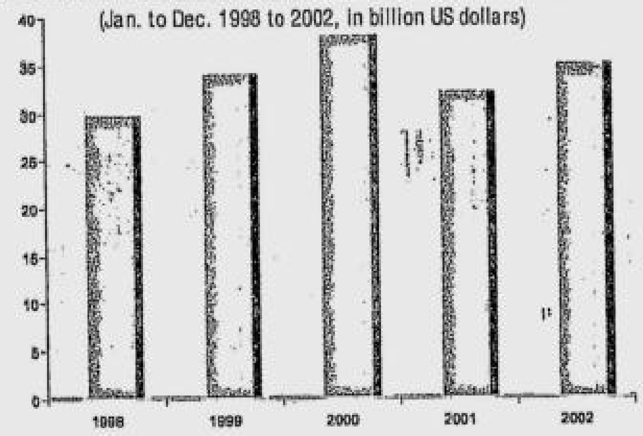
China is the country's eighth biggest market, accounting for about 4 percent of total exports.

The government had expected exports to expand by about 8 percent in 2002, a reversal of the 2001 contraction of 15.5 percent. The Philippines expects exports to grow by between 5 and 8 percent in 2003.

"It's possible we could see double-digit growth in exports this year, but overall we see a stable growth from last year," said Steve Brice, an economist at Standard Chartered in Singapore.

Total Exports

(Jan. to Dec. 1998 to 2002, in billion US dollars)



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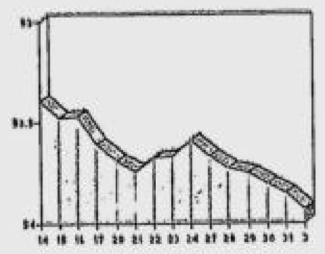
CURRENCIES

GRAPHS BY JOEL PARADEZA



JANUARY-FEBRUARY

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ P53.935 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Feb. 4, 2003

¥ 120.14 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Feb. 4, 2003

GOLD: $375.50-376.00

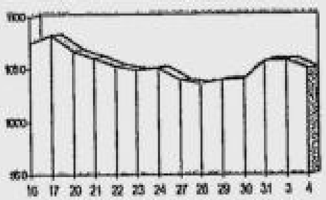
per ounce Hong Kong, Feb. 4, 2003

STOCK MARKET

Shares end lower on profit-taking

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

JANUARY- FEBRUARY



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARES fell slightly yesterday as war-cautious investors with a short-term view took advantage of the market's recent gains to lock in profits.

Traders said the rise in the benchmark 91-day treasury bill rate at the auction on Monday due to worries about a war in Iraq also gave a negative signal to the market, further dampening sentiment in anticipation of higher interest rates.

The Philippine stock index slid 8.47 points or 0.8 percent to end at 1,049.67 points, after three consecutive days of gains in which the index rose 1.8 percent over the period.

But the market was still up 3.07 percent so far this year.

"The market is in a consolidation phase," said Terence Chan, analyst at Citisecurities Inc.

"Treasury bill rates went up faster than expected. That sends a wrong signal to the market in terms of sentiment. It is pointing towards a high interest rate environment, so that's a dampener," Chan said.

The benchmark 91-day T-bill rate climbed to 5.672 percent from 5.248 percent previously, a rise of over 40 basis points.

Top property firm Ayala Land Inc. fell 1.01 percent to P4.90 and accounted for about 27 percent of total market turnover. A high interest rate environment would further dampen buying appetite in the already-sluggish property market, traders said.

Value turnover at the stock market expanded to P174.9 million from Monday's P97.5 million but was still considered low against an average of about P200-P300 million a day.

Losers were in a three-to-one majority.

"There was profit-taking because there were some foreign hands buying heavyweight stocks last week. We expect volume to still be weak for the rest of the week," said Monique Lecaros, dealer at SB Equities Inc. *Reuters*

Gov't selling ₱50B in assets

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MACAPAGAL administration yesterday said it was sitting on more than P50 billion worth of real estate and equity assets that it could sell starting this year to substantially reduce the budget deficit.

But the Department of Finance stressed that while the inventory of assets to be sold might have reached a substantial level, it would not change the privatization target of raising only P1 billion in 2003 after divestment efforts during the last five years were fruitless.

Finance Undersecretary Eric Recto said the list included assets of the national government, some held by government corporations, and those left with the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

The PCGG assets alone were worth more than P15 billion while those held by the national government could even exceed P35 billion.

The finance undersecretary said any privatization proceeds would be used to finance the government's estimated budget deficit of P202 billion this year.

However, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho had been saying that privatization revenues in excess of the P1-billion target would be used to finance expenditure items not included in the budget.

Since last year, Camacho had been saying that any amount exceeding the privatization target would be used to fund about P15 billion worth of unprogrammed items.

Included in the list of assets to be divested this year are the 10-percent stake of the national government in Manila Electric Co., a 95-percent interest in Philippine National Construction Corp., the 100-hectare Food Terminal Inc. property, the 12-ha property in Makati partly owned by National Power Corp., the 4.5-ha property that used to house the International School in Makati, the Philippine Postal Corp., and the 10-percent stake of PNOC Exploration Corp. in the Malampaya project.

The assets of the PCGG are the 18-ha lot housing the Payanig sa Pasig, a 4-ha property in Tagaytay, a 40-percent stake in Eastern Telecom, equity holdings in Philcomsat, and the television stations IBC-13 and RPN-9.

Gov't junks bid to scrap oil tax

THE GOVERNMENT could not afford to suspend oil import taxes as it would deprive the government of billions of pesos in much-needed revenues, according to Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho.

Transport groups have asked the government to suspend the collection of the 3-percent oil import tax to cushion consumers against the impact of rising cost of crude oil.

"We may not be able to afford it because the oil import tax is a significant part of our revenue," the finance chief said.

Instead, Camacho vowed to find other solutions to help the transport sector cope with the rising cost of fuel.

"We have to look for other means to keep transport fares stable," the finance chief said.

The Department of Energy estimated that the government lost some P5 billion in revenue when it suspended the collection of im-

GOV'T/ B3

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Use of ODA funds improves, says World Bank

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES was able to implement, at a faster pace, official development assistance-funded projects in the second half of last year, the World Bank disclosed yesterday.

In an interview, World Bank country director Robert Vance Pulley said the Philippines' disbursement ratio improved by 72 percent to 11.5 percent in the July-December 2002 period under review.

The higher disbursement ratio—which refers to the actual utilization of funds compared to what has been made available—has allowed the country to improve its ranking from being a bottom dweller to No. 4 among nine countries being assisted by the World Bank in East Asia.

"With this turnaround, the real winners are the beneficiaries of the projects, mostly the poor, because the faster the implementation is, the faster the delivery of benefits and services to them," Pulley said.

"Much of this improvement can be attributed to the timely interventions by both government oversight and implementing agencies and the adequate provision of counterpart resources," he added.

A disbursement ratio of 11.5 percent means the figure could further improve to 20 percent by June 2003, comparable to levels achieved under the Ramos administration.

ODA disbursements fell sharply under the Estrada administration because of the government's failure to provide counterpart funding for ODA-assisted projects.

Gross disbursements of projects funded by the World Bank rose to $101 million in the last six months of 2002, 66 percent higher that the level reached during the same period the previous year.

The five projects that recorded the most disbursement during the period were those that promoted investments in human resources and infrastructure.

These are the Rural Finance III, Social Expenditure Management Project I, Transmission Grid Reinforcement Project, National Roads Improvement and Management Project and the Third Elementary Education Project.

Another notable improvement cited by the World Bank was the reduction in the number of projects with implementation delays.

"To maintain this pace, the challenge is to sustain timely and adequate provision of counterpart funds amidst the country's tight budget situation," Pulley said.

Pulley said he was heartened by the government's strong commitment to provide counterpart funding during the dialogue with the international donor community last Friday.

PCA sees drop in coconut oil exports in '03

THE PHILIPPINE Coconut Authority said it was projecting a decline in the country's coconut oil exports this year to 920,000 tons from 958,245 tons last year due mainly to a drop in output.

Despite the expected decline in the volume of production and exports, PCA Administrator Danilo Coronacion said export receipts were expected to rise to $500 million this year from $357 million last year due to the increasing world market prices of coconut oil. He said prices were expected to hover between $500 and $600 per ton.

The Philippines is the world's largest supplier of coconut oil in the international market.

In 2002, the country exported 1.774 million metric tons of various coconut products, with coconut oil accounting for the bulk. For this year, the volume is expected to drop to 1.677 million MT.

The PCA also revised its outlook for copra output in 2003 to between 2.148 million tons and 2.4 million tons, from its earlier estimate of 2.425 million tons.

It revised the 2002 copra output to 2.326 million tons from 2.47 million. Traders have predicted a drop in copra output this year to between 2.1 million and 2.148 million tons.

The production decline was attributed to the El Niño weather pattern and the deteriorating yields of coconut trees. *Christine A. Gaylican with a report from Reuters*

GMA approves creation of Subic-Clark venture

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG has approved the formation of the Subic-Clark Alliance Development Corp. (SCAD) that will merge all key assets of the former American military bases and serve as an investment vehicle for new investors.

The President signed an executive order transferring to SCAD the Subic seaport, the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport, the Subic-Clark-Tarlac toll road and all the facilities needed to develop and operate these assets.

SCAD's board of directors will be composed of three representatives from the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, two from the Bases Conversion Development Authority, two from Clark Development Corp., one from the Department of Trade and Industry and one from the private sector.

The board representatives represent the value of the assets contributed by SBMA and BCDA-Clark in the joint venture.

SCAD is seen as a functional merger of the SBMA and CDC which have taken separate and divergent paths in developing the former American military bases into industrial and tourism enclaves since 1992. SBMA and CDC will retain management control of all the assets in their areas except for those transferred to the SCAD.

BCDA president Rufo Colayco said SCAD would be used as a vehicle for potential investors keen on taking an equity interest in the three infrastructure projects under its wings.

Colayco said the implementation of the seaport, airport, and expressway should pave the way for the construction of other projects in the Subic-Clark growth corridor.

These projects include the Highway Oasis in Metro Clark; an International Port City in Subic and Morong; High Value-Added Industrial City in Hermosa Ecozone and Dinalupihan; New Industrial City in Floridablanca; Agro-business and Industrial City in Luisita Industrial Park and Tarlac City; Metropolitan Service Center in San Fernando City; and reclamation of flood-prone areas in the region.

Colayco earlier said the government needed a "long-term foreign investor" in SCAD to implement the Subic-Clark growth corridor because it required hefty funds and a handful of catalyst projects on top of the sea port and airport, railway and expressway.

NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS ON REDEMPTION OF REDEEMABLE PREFERRED SHARES

To All Stockholders of William, Gothong & Aboitiz, Inc. ("WG&A"):

Please be informed that in a meeting of the Board of Directors of William, Gothong & Aboitiz, Inc. ("Company") on January 8, 2003 th ard approved the partial redemption of the 374,520,487 redeemable preferred shares issued as stock dividends last January 7, 2003.

The Company will redeem six of each ten Redeemable Preferred Shares ("RPS") held by each eligible stockholder of such shares for a price of P6.67 per share. Other than for fractional shares, this means 60% of the shareholdings of each eligible stockholder will be redeemed by the Company. To illustrate, if the eligible stockholder holds 19 RPS, WG&A will redeem only 11 RPS and 0.4 RPS will not be redeemed. Thus, the eligible stockholder will be paid P73.37 and shall be issued a new certificate for the eight remaining RPS outstanding.

Any capital gains tax, documentary stamp tax, stock transaction tax, value added tax, brokerage commission, application fees of the Securities Clearing Corporation of the Philippines or Philippine Central Depository and stock certificates costs pertinent to the transfer shall be for the account of the eligible shareholders.

RPS shareholdings of eligible stockholders as of close of business on January 30, 2003 (the "Entitlement Date") will be redeemed by the Company on February 11, 2003 ("Redemption Date") by crossing such shares through the facilities of the Philippine Stock Exchange. .

Eligible stockholders who hold stock certificates ("Scrip Stockholders") should submit the following requirements to:

BPI-Stock Transfer Office
4th Floor BPI Bldg., Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Telephone Nos. (02) 845-5038; 845-5515; 816-9067 to 68
Contact Person: Mr. Real R. Rodriguez

For Corporate Stockholders

1. Duly accomplished Form as a written instruction to surrender the eligible number of shares for redemption, to collect the redemption price, to pay pertinent taxes and costs and to claim the certificate of the remaining unredeemed shares.
2. The RPS stock certificate duly endorsed by the company's authorized signatory
3. Secretary Certificate enumerating the Company's Authorized Signatories with their specimen signatures therein inscribed.

For Individual Stockholders

1. Duly accomplished Form as a written instruction to surrender the eligible number of shares for redemption, to collect the redemption price, to pay pertinent taxes and costs and to claim the certificate of the remaining unredeemed shares.
2. The RPS stock certificate duly endorsed by the stockholder himself
3. Specimen Signature Card (from any bank duly validated by the bank's officer) and Two (2) valid identification cards containing the specimen signature of the stockholder.
4. For stockholders acting through a representative, a duly signed authorization letter. The representative must present a valid identification card.

For scripless shareholders, other than for fractional shares, Participating Brokers shall uplift 60% of their position on WG&A RPS on or before February 05, 2003 and shall forward a copy of the upliftment report to the Philippine Central Depository. Checks will be made available starting February 11, 2003, the redemption date, at the BPI-Stock Transfer Office, Makati City.

All RPS stock certificates surrendered for redemption shall be subject to validation by the Company's Transfer Agent, BPI-Stock Transfer Office. Any discrepancy will be communicated to stockholders either in writing or through phone. **Hence, shareholders are strongly urged to give their telephone numbers and current address to the BPI-Stock Transfer Office so that the shareholder could be informed immediately of any discrepancy.**

The BPI-Stock Transfer Office will issue the check payment pertaining to the RPS shares redeemed by the Company and release the stock certificate pertaining to the unredeemed RPS that remain outstanding after February 11, 2003. Checks and Certificates will be made available starting February 11, 2003 but shall only be released upon surrender of the RPS certificates.

WG&A appointed ATR-Kim Eng as its Broker for the redemption of RPS. For the convenience of eligible stockholders based in Visayas and Mindanao, stock certificates may be surrendered together with the other requirements at the Cebu and Davao branch offices of the issuer's appointed broker. Check payment representing net proceeds or redeemed shares and stock certificate pertaining to unredeemed shares will be released upon surrender of RPS certificate and other requirements.

Eligible stockholders based in Visayas and Mindanao may surrender their certificate and claim their check and new certificate in the specified branch offices of ATR-Kim Eng below starting on February 17 until March 31, 2003.

ATR-Kim Eng Securities, Inc. - Cebu Branch
Mezzanine Floor, TPG Center,
Escario cor. F. Ramos Sts., Cebu City
Telephone No.: (032) 255-1888
Contact Person: Cheryl M. Lim

ATR-Kim Eng Securities, Inc. - Davao Branch
Dr.#7 M.T. Aquino Building,
Cabaguio Avenue cor. Bolcan Street, Davao City
Telephone No.: (082) 224-2860
Contact Person: Miguel Luis R. Aquino

After March 31, 2003, eligible stockholders must surrender their RPS stock certificates to BPI Stock Transfer Office, Makati City. After compliance with the above requirements, such eligible stockholders will be able to get their checks and certificates pertaining to their unredeemed RPS only from the BPI Stock Transfer Office in Makati City.

If you need assistance in completing the redemption form, please contact **Ms. Annacel A. Natividad, Investors Relations, 11th floor Times Plaza Bldg., U.N. Avenue corner Taft Avenue, Ermita, Manila. Telephone no. (02)528-7557.**

January 23, 2003, Makati, Philippines

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
By:
Tiu, Helen Go
Tiu, Helen Go
Corporate Secretary

The above notice was sent to all eligible stockholders by WG&A's Stock Transfer Office (STO). For those eligible stockholders who didn't receive the above notice via registered mail together with the Form for the Redemption of RPS, you may request for copies of this form from the STA and/or Broker of the Company. This form can also be downloaded from the WG&A, Inc. website: www.wgasuperferry.com under Investor Relations webpage.

WG&A SuperFerry

Truckers buck 10-seat policy; DOF unfazed

THE TRUCK Manufacturers Association of the Philippines warned yesterday of a production slowdown in the auto industry should the Department of Finance push ahead plans to tighten its tax-exemption rules on 10-seaters this month.

TMA president Elizabeth Lee said the implementation of Revenue Regulation 4-2003 without a transition period could lead to a "serious" decline in sales volume.

It will also lead to an "industry-wide production slowdown" that will undermine the financial health of all assemblers, local parts suppliers, dealers and indirect workers serving the industry, as well impact on duty and tax collection from the industry, she added.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho dismissed these warnings, saying the government was set on tightening its 10-seater tax policy.

He even warned auto assemblers that they could be sued for fraud for misrepresenting some of their brands.

"We are putting our foot down on this. This policy went through a long period of consultation and we only restored what was in the spirit of the law," he said.

"If anything," he added, "some of these companies must be sued for misrepresentation when they market their vehicles as 10-seaters in the Philippines but sell them as seven- to eight-seaters in other countries."

Industry officials expect the new tax rules to make a number of commercial vehicles—specifically Asian-utility and sport-utility vehicles—more expensive by revoking tax exemptions on vehicles that do not comply with the much stricter enforcement of the 10-seater rule.

The government currently exempts all vehicles that have at least 10 seats from the excise tax. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Clarissa S. Batino*

CR-V reclassified despite review body's objection

A REVIEW committee of the Board of Investments rejected in late 2001 Honda Cars Philippines Inc.'s application to reclassify its CR-V sport-utility vehicle into an Asian-utility vehicle because of the huge revenue losses it involved, government records show.

In a November 2001 memorandum to the BOI management committee, the BOI Engineering Industries Department denied Honda Philippines' application because the CR-V did not match the configurations of an AUV.

The EID warned that the government would incur some P2.385 billion in foregone revenues should it reclassify the CR-V—sold in North America and Europe as a sport-utility—as an AUV and give it a number of incentives.

The losses covered some P1.865 billion from taxes based on projected sales of 8,000 units—AUVs are exempted from the 35-percent excise tax slapped on two-liter vehicles—and P520.4 million in duties—AUVs are levied a lower duty than SUVs.

Despite the EID's warning of hefty revenue losses, the BOI board, led by Gregory Domingo, approved Honda Philippines' petition a few months later, and the CR-V was launched as an AUV in March last year.

Since then, Honda Philippines has sold 7,125 CR-Vs that the Senate estimates have cost the government P1.5 billion in foregone revenues from excise taxes.

Honda Philippines maintained the estimates were erroneous and misleading because it would have sold much less than what it chalked up in 2002 had its CR-V been sold as an SUV and subjected to taxes worth over P200,000 each.

The EID also noted in its recommendation that the CR-V did not match the configuration of an AUV that, under Memorandum Order 157, was defined as an originally Philippine-designed or similarly designed low-cost light commercial vehicle with a higher local content than light commercial vehicle such as pickups, delivery vans, commuter vans and four-wheel-drive vehicles. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

GOINGS-ON

New GACPA president

DELA Peña

DOTC-NTC regional director Lilia A. Borjal-del Peña is the newly-elected president of the Government Association of Certified Public Accountants, now the biggest sectoral organization of CPAs in the country.

The other officers are COA director Caroline V. Idos, executive vice president; special assistant to the customs deputy commissioner Valentin Arciaga, vice president for internal affairs; DBP vice president Edgardo F. Cruz, vice president for external affiars; COA state auditor Mary S. Villamor, secretary; LBP manager Annalyn Bautista, treasurer; COA director Chita S. Miranda, auditor; BOC-MICP assistant chief Carlos C. Valera, public relations officer, and BIR district officer Marina C. de Guzman, assistant secretary.

Piltel's new CEO

PILIPINO Telephone Corp. yesterday announced the appointment of Mr. Gregorio A. Atienza as its president and chief executive officer. He replaces Napoleon L Nazareno, who remains chair of the board.

Atienza brings with him an extensive experience in the telecommunications industry where he served as president and CEO of Telecommunications Specialists Inc for five years.

Other officers appointed at the meeting held yesterday were Augusto P. Macuja as chief operating officer, Alexander A. Arevalo as treasurer and Aileen M. Malto as controller.

U-Bix joins E-Services

U-BIX Corp., celebrating its 29th year on Feb. 11, is joining E-Services Philippines 2003, an outsourcing and subcontracting exhibition that will bring together the country's best IT outsourcing services providers at the World Trade Center on Feb. 13-15.

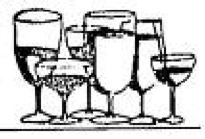
President Macapagal-Arroyo and Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II will grace the exhibition on its opening day.

U-Bix is classified under a category called "E-nablers," that includes companies providing IT infrastructure, technology and other support services to e-services companies.

To commemorate its 29th year, U-Bix will be exhibiting some of its latest products including Konica digital copier machines, Epson printers, multimedia projectors and scanners, Riso digital duplicating machines and Okamura office chairs and tables.

The Globalization gravy

COCKTALES



Victor C. Agustin

LIKE the sustained campaign waged by Philexport/UP economists to devalue the peso, Uncle Sam is also oiling the lobby machines now battling to pry open the Philippine skies and seas to US and foreign competition.

For 1998 to 2005, the US Agency for International Development has set aside a $41-million consultancy fund to help prepare the legislative and administrative spadework within the various Philippine government agencies that would promote freer trade and globalization.

This $41-million fund, a slice of which goes to media lobbying and congressional advocacy, was coursed through the Development Alternatives Inc. (DAI), a Bethesda, Maryland-based consulting agency run by ex-USAID officers.

DAI in turn disburses the advocacy fund to its local allies and agents through its Makati and Pasig offices.

The $41-million USAID project is locally known as Agile, for Accelerating Growth, Investment and Liberalization with Equity. In the words of DAI, AGILE is an "umbrella project for the entire economic policy and governance portfolio of the US-AID mission in Manila" that seeks to "expand competition in major industries, strengthen financial markets, improve fiscal policies, increase trade and investment, and promote macroeconomic stability" for the former US colony.

AGILE maintains satellite offices in the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, in the budget, finance, trade, agriculture, and transportation and communication departments, Securities and Exchange Commission, Bureau of Customs, Philippine Stock Exchange, National Telecommunications Commission, and in the National Economic and Development Authority.

"This direct presence in the vital government agencies has allowed AGILE to make great strides in policy reforms," DAI said.

USAID also said AGILE works in collaboration with the Supreme Court and the Bureau of Internal Revenue and such non-governmental organizations as The Asia Foundation, Center for Research and Communication and Foundation for Economic Freedom.

Agile,, apparently through DAI, hires advisors and consultants from local leading firms and universities to conduct policy analysis, do legal work and implement strategy. AGILE also arranges trainings and study tours, both here and abroad, for "decision-makers."

One particular DAI contract is instructive of how the advocacy process works.

Last year, DAI hired PRISM, a PR outfit run by two ex-newsmen, for P4 million a year to "manage and implement the advocacy work and public relations" for the Freedom to Fly Coalition and the Coalition for Shipping and Ports Modernization.

"In accomplishing its tasks, PRISM will coordinate with the Ports Policy team leader, Mr. Henry Basilio, and the Air Transport Policy team leader, Ms Mila Abad," the contract said.

The DAI contract listed Jaime Faustino as competition policy advisor, and Meneleo Carlos, director of the Export Development Council, as government counterpart.

The Opus Dei-run CRC was listed as ports and shipping secretariat.

The lobbying efforts were directed at liberalizing civil aviation policies, increasing Clark airport's autonomy and "devolution of CAB (Civil Aeronautics Board)."

For shipping, the advocates were supposed to work toward North Harbor privatization, lobby for new port and freight tariff structure and promote the "roll on, roll off" mode of sea transport.

Gloria's jet

THE CHALLENGER 604 jet used by President Macapagal-Arroyo for the Kuwait trip was leased from Shandong Airlines Rainbow Jet Co. Ltd., China's first large executive jet provider.

Before the President, former US President Jimmy Carter, Singapore's ex-president Ong Teng Choeng, and actor Jacky Chan were among Rainbow Jet's more famous lessees.

Rainbow Jet's local agent is Subic Air of Jose "Pepito" Alvarez.

Heard through the grapevine

THE 800-hectare coastal property in Calatagan, Batangas, purchased by a company controlled by San Miguel president Ramon Ang has run into legal snags after the administrator of the estate sued to void the sale.

Apparently, the estate belongs to a large clan, and one side of the clan sold the property without informing the other heirs.

The Calatagan estate adjoins another large property on the Balayan side earlier acquired by San Miguel Corp. for its port and warehousing project. But it is the Calatagan side that allegedly has a deeper bay. *(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

Gov't junks bid . . .

From page B1

port taxes from November 2000 to February 2001 when crude oil prices also went up.

In 2002, the government collected P3.8 billion in import taxes out of P13.27 billion in total importations of finished oil products, according to Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo.

Transport groups said the government could help avert fare increases by keeping pump prices stable. *Clarissa Batino*

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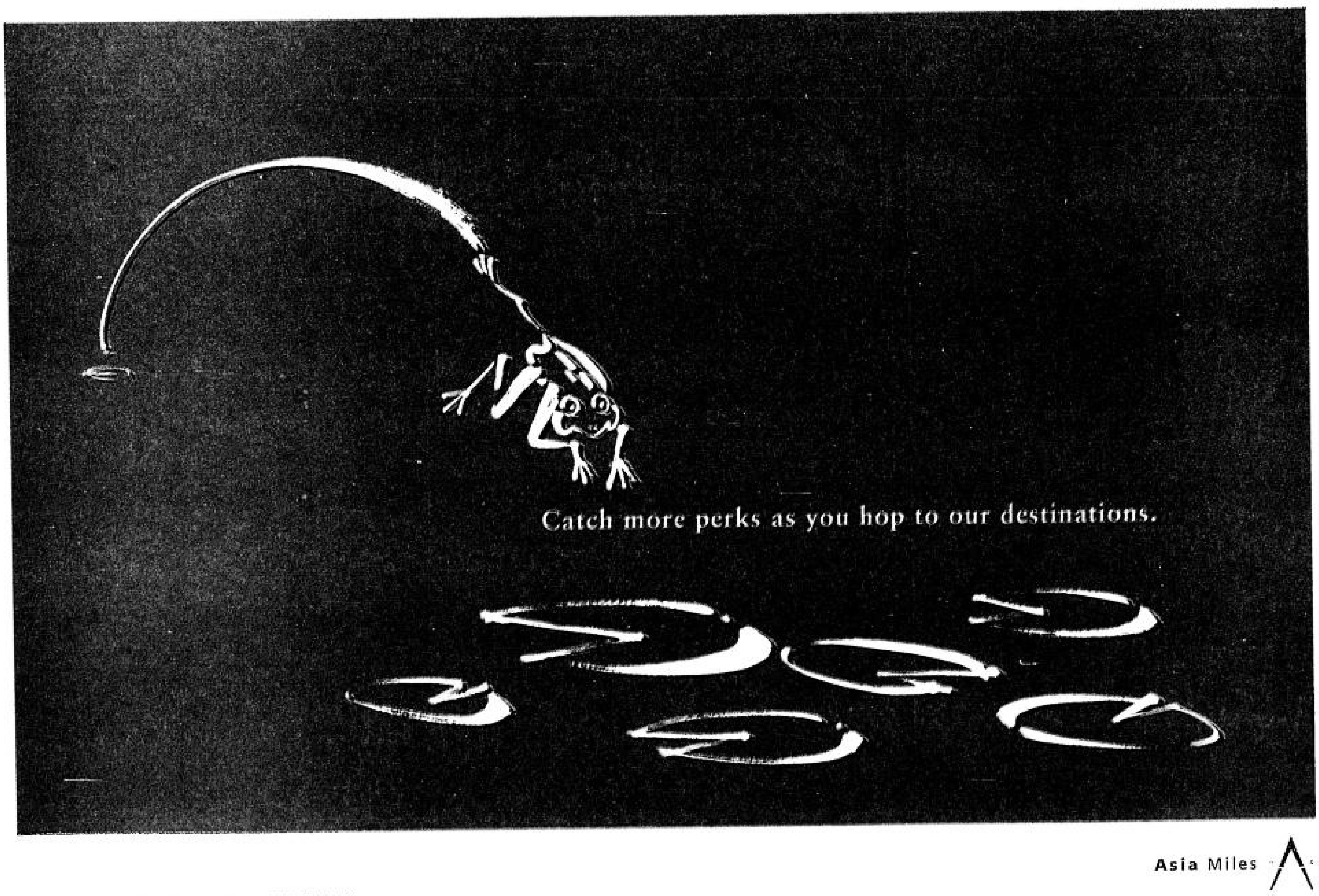
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PNB selling ₱15B in idle assets

By Clarissa S. Batino

PHILIPPINE National Bank is planning to sell P15 billion worth of foreclosed assets this year to bring down its bad loans ratio below 40 percent of total loan portfolio.

The move is also expected to help the bank to break even this year after incurring losses in the last five years.

PNB president Lorenzo Tan said the country's sixth largest bank, which has the biggest holdings of foreclosed assets and the third highest bad loan level, could be out of the red starting this year.

"The best case is for us to break even this year and the worst-case is to have P400 million in losses. But we are still three years ahead of our original plan," said the bank president.

When Tan was appointed president of PNB, he said he would bring the bank back to profitability in 2006.

PNB registered P1.9 billion in losses last year, down from P4.1 billion in 2002.

As of end-2002, the bank's non-performing loans of P44.939 billion were equivalent to 51 percent of its total loans, down from 55 percent in the third quarter amounting to P48.903 billion.

The bank's foreclosed assets stood at P26.885 billion as of end-December, up 3 percent from P26.112 billion in the third quarter.

"We would like to bring down our Ropoa (real and other properties owned or acquired or foreclosed) by P6 billion to P9 billion in the first half. We hired eight new lawyers to achieve this target," said Tan.

PNB is about to choose an asset management company to help the bank sell its bad loans and seized assets.

As of end-2002, PNB's capital grew 66.2 percent to P23.837 billion from P14.344 billion in the third quarter and up 85.2 percent from P12.869 billion a year ago.

The bank's capital rose after it completed the conversion of P7.8 billion in debts to state equity after a deal between PNB and the government was clinched on May 3, 2002.

Landbank to raise $100M

By Elena R. Torrijos

STATE-OWNED Land Bank of the Philippines plans to raise $100 million in tier 2 capital in the first half of this year.

In a briefing Monday evening, Landbank executive vice president Alfonso Cruz Jr. said the bank was in the process of selecting a financial adviser and underwriter for the tier 2 issue.

The candidates include ING Barings, JP Morgan Chase, Deutsche Bank and Citibank N.A.

The bank is tapping tier 2 capital, or a subordinated long-term borrowing, to strengthen its capital base, said Jose Carmelo Nograles, Landbank senior vice president for treasury. The proposed tier 2 capital issue will have a maturity of 10 years.

Cruz said the bank originally wanted to raise only $50 million but discussions with possible financial advisers indicated that $100 million was more cost effective.

The bank aims to issue the tier 2 capital notes by the first half of this year to take advantage of low interest rates.

"We feel that dollar interest rates will go up before the end of 2003 so we want to be on stream before interest rates rise," Cruz said.

In the same briefing, Landbank president and chief executive Margarito Teves said the bank posted a net income of P1.65 billion last year or 10 percent higher than the previous year's profit of P1.5 billion.

Teves said the bank was targeting a net income of P1.8 billion this year but that its finances could be put under pressure if the national government would require the bank to advance government payment of claims in relation to the comprehensive agrarian reform program.

BOC posts ₱122M in profit

BANK of Commerce last year posted a net income of P122.4 million, a reversal of the P145 million in net loss recorded in 2001.

In a briefing yesterday, bank president and chief executive Raul de Mesa said the bank was shooting for a profit of P258 million this year or more than double the 2002 figure.

De Mesa also disclosed that the bank might acquire a bank or merge with another bank this year.

BOC earlier absorbed Traders Royal Bank and, before that, Pan Asia Bank. It had also vied for First e-bank but was edged out by Banco de Oro.

In a statement, BOC, largely owned by the family of "Tonyboy" Cojuangco, said that earnings after taxes but before provisions amounted to an all-time high of P401.2 million. Provisions for the year reached P279 million.

De Mesa said that for this year the bank would aim for a net income before provisions of P800 million, which would largely be driven by increasing funding and lending.

"We plan to increase our loan portfolio by P2 billion this year," De Mesa said. The focus of the bank would be to grow its middle market and consumer loan segments.

The bank's net income of P122.4 million last year was brought about by a 61-percent increase in non-interest income and a substantial increase in income from interest differential.

BOC disclosed that its net loan portfolio grew 52 percent to P15.7 billion from less than P5 billion in 2001 while its liquid assets surged to P12.4 billion in 12 months.

BOC lending sector head Ricardo Dizon said the bank was also able to sell P500 million in acquired assets last year. The bank this year is aiming to sell P600 million worth of idle assets, he added.

With the total consolidation of Traders Royal Bank branches last July, BOC recorded an expansion in its funding base to P27.7 billion, almost double the year-ago level of P14.2 billion. *Elena R. Torrijos*

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Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	-	1,400,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	-	1,550,000
Baguio Country Club	610,000	650,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	70,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	80,000
Camp John Hay	220,000	240,000
Canlubang	-	450,000
Canyonwoods	-	180,000
Capitol Hills	90,000	110,000
Celebrity Sports Club	140,000	185,000
Club Filipino	-	150,000
Evercrest "A"	-	80,000
Forest Hills "A"	-	200,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	250,000
Forest Hills "C"	-	250,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	250,000	275,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	10,500,000	12,600,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	10,300,000	11,000,000
Manila Polo	2,400,000	2,650,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	500,000	550,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	500,000	730,000
Manila Yacht Club	-	630,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	90,000	130,000
Metropolitan Club "B"	100,000	130,000
Mimosa (Individual)	100,000	135,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	250,000	325,000
Montemar (Individual)	20,000	35,000
Mt. Malarayat (Individual)	-	300,000
Mt. Malarayat (Corporate)	-	450,000
Puerto Azul	-	100,000
Punta Fuego	400,000	540,000
Quezon City Sports Club-	200,000	220,000
Rockwell	350,000	430,000
Royale Tagaytay "A"	-	Please Call
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	90,000
Sherwood Hills "B"	-	180,000
Sherwood Hills "C"	-	180,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,300,000	1,550,000
Sta. Elena "B"		1,850,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	280,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	170,000
Tagaytay Country Club	320,000	350,000
Tagaytay Highlands	800,000	850,000
Tagaytay Midlands	700,000	780,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	130,000	160,000
Valley Golf	260,000	275,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,000,000	6,400,000

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RP, UAE to start air talks

AIR talks with the United Arab Emirates will finally push through on Feb. 26 to 28, following the UAE's acceptance of the Philippine air panel's proposed schedule.

An industry source said the UAE's Ministry of Foreign Affairs had already relayed to the Philippine Embassy in the UAE that it was accepting the country's proposal to hold the air talks on the last week of the month.

In a letter to UAE's Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent last week, the Philippine Embassy in the UAE provided two possible schedules for the air talks: Feb. 3 to 7 and Feb. 24 to 28.

Matters concerning flights to Abu Dhabi will be discussed on Feb. 26 while those regarding Dubai flights will be held on Feb. 27. Other matters will be tackled on Feb. 28.

The Civil Aeronautics Board prioritized air talks with the UAE upon Malacañang's prodding.

A memorandum from Presidential Management Staff Undersecretary Ricardo Saludo to President Macapagal-Arroyo stated that the United Arab Emirates was now considered a "priority country" for air talks and that discussions should be undertaken any time soon. *Abigail L. Ho*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Tuesday, February 4, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.1	4.6	4.1	4.5	32,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.25	17.5	17.25	17.5	26,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	36	36	35.5	36	63,700
China Banking Corp.	635	635	635	635	1,990
Citystate Savings Bank	14.75	14.75	14.5	14.75	9,700
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	25,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30	31	30	31	32,000
Philippine National Bank	27	27	27	27	7,400
Union Bank of the Phil.	18	18	17.75	17.75	11,500
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1240	1260	1240	1260	2,850
Sun Life Financial Serv.	965	990	965	985	4,230
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.25	13.25	13	13	30,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	200,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	540	545	535	535	10,800
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	400,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	297.5	297.5	292.5	292.5	36,410
Philweb Corp.	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	15,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	8.7	8.7	8.7	8.7	30,000
Manila Electric Co. B	12.5	12.75	12.5	12.75	877,900
Petron Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.66	1.68	1,097,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1	1	1	1	210,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	22,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	100,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	23,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	40,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	48,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17	17	17	17	192,800
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	33.5	33.5	33	33	18,100
San Miguel Corp. A	56	56.5	56	56.5	277,800
San Miguel Corp. B	63.5	63.5	63	63	600,900
Universal Robina Corp.	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	10,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.4	4.4	4.35	4.35	508,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.3	2.34	2.3	2.34	218,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	10,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	5,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10	10	10	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	1,200,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	40,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	9.3	9.3	9	9	228,000
Ionics Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	60,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	351,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	900,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	170,000
Music Corp.	0.1	0.11	0.1	0.105	1,060,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	300,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.31	1,140,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	4.15	4.15	4.15	4.15	2,000
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	81,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	40,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.65	0.66	0.65	0.66	280,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	12.75	13	12.75	12.75	130,100
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Manila Jockey Club	8	8	8	8	1,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	13.25	13.25	12.75	12.75	79,000
Jollibee Warrants	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5	7,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	1,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.95	4.95	4.9	4.9	9,544,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	400,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.12	0.12	190,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1	1	0.95	0.96	6,140,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.96	1.96	1.96	1.96	100,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	500,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.2	1,547,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	10,000,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1	1	1	1	170,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	100,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	3,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc ...	218,870	14,114,500.00
Comm'l & Ind'l ...	26,457,010	98,932,310.00
PRO ...	18,421,000	61,465,750.00
Mining...	10,270,000	223,000.00
OIL..........	3,000,000	7,200.00
GRAND TOTALS :	58,366,880	174,742,760.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc ...	382.36	UP 1.88
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,495.74	DOWN 14.13
PRO ..	453.18	DOWN 7.47
Mining...	1,256.09	DOWN 20.13
OIL..........	1.05	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index ..	645.37	UP 10.24
Composite..	1,049.67	DOWN 8.47

NO. OF ADVANCES: 9; NO. OF DECLINES: 27; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 34; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 70; NO. OF TRADES: 899

DISCLOSURES

THE **SECURITIES and Exchange Commission** approved the increase in the capital stock of **Roxas Holdings Inc.** from P1 billion to P1.5 billion. Also, the company declared a 20-percent stock dividend.

* * *

FAIRMONT Holdings Inc. announced the appointment of Cristina Gonzales as compliance officer under the company's manual on corporate governance.

* * *

BASIC Consolidated Inc. disclosed the retirement of Oscar de Venecia as president and CEO of the company. Elected to replace him was Oscar de Venecia Jr.

* * *

REYNALDO Arcilla was named compliance officer of **Cyber Bay Corp.**

* * *

BALABAC Resources and Holdings Co. Inc. announced that 25 percent of the proposed increase in its authorized capital stock to P5 billion would be subscribed by Saturn Holdings Corp., a member of the Lucio Tan group of companies, not by Round Peak Realty and Development Corp.

* * *

JOHN Sadullo was named compliance officer of **Universal Rightfield Property Holdings Inc.**

* * *

FRANCISCO Canuto was appointed compliance officer of **Megaworld Corp.**

* * *

IRMA Tan was appointed compliance officer of **Filinvest Land Inc.**

* * *

VITARICH Corp. announced the resignation of Lamberto Villena as director of the company. Elected to replace him was Aristotle Villaraza. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

Feb. 4, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	0.927386	1.000000	53.922000
Japan	Yen	0.007711	0.008315	0.448400
United Kingdom	Pound	1.524066	1.643400	88.615400
Hongkong	Dollar	0.118900	0.128210	6.913300
Switzerland	Franc	0.681400	0.734754	39.619400
Canada	Dollar	0.611329	0.659196	35.545200
Singapore	Dollar	0.532216	0.573888	30.945200
Australia	Dollar	0.541697	0.584112	31.496500
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.459974	2.652590	143.033000
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.247316	0.266681	14.380000
Brunei	Dollar	0.530693	0.572246	30.856600
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000105	0.000113	0.006100
Thailand	Baht	0.021667	0.023364	1.259800
UAE	Dirham	0.252522	0.272294	14.682600
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.078300	58.144100
Argentina	Peso	0.291630	0.314465	16.956600
Brazil	Real	0.263912	0.284576	15.344900
Denmark	Kroner	0.134458	0.144986	7.817900
India	Rupee	0.019442	0.020964	1.130400
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.244081	0.263193	14.191900
Mexico	New Peso	0.085113	0.091777	4.948800
New Zealand	Dollar	0.503850	0.543301	29.295900
Norway	Kroner	0.133616	0.144078	7.769000
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015945	0.017194	0.927100
South Africa	Rand	0.109137	0.117682	6.345600
Korea	Won	0.000785	0.000847	0.045700
Sweden	Kroner	0.108372	0.116857	6.301200
Syria	Pound	0.018007	0.019417	1.047000
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026873	0.028977	1.562500
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000483	0.000521	0.028100

Record 214,000 Japanese file for bankruptcy

TOKYO—A record 214,000 Japanese individuals filed for bankruptcy last year as the nation continued to struggle with its now chronic economic slump, Japan's top court said Tuesday.

A total of 214,634 Japanese filed for bankruptcy at Japanese courts nationwide in 2002, up 33.8 percent from 160,457 the previous year, Supreme Court spokesperson Isao Umezawa said.

Individual bankruptcies in Japan have been on the rise amid increasing corporate failures, restructuring and pay cuts.

Japan's unemployment rate remains at record high levels, and a government study late last year showed about half of the unemployed had no income.

Separately, 13,495 other Japanese filed for court protection under a new insolvency law introduced in April, 2001 aimed at reducing repayment burdens for those with stable income and debt smaller than 30 million yen ($249,000), the Supreme Court said.

Individual bankruptcies accounted to 95 percent of all the bankruptcies filed last year, he said.

Corporate insolvencies totaled 19,458 in 2002, up 0.1 percent from the year before for the second-highest figure in the postwar period, the private credit agency Teikoku Data Bank said last month. *AP*

Once-downtrodden dot-coms turning into money makers

SAN FRANCISCO—It's not quite the economic revolution once envisioned by brash entrepreneurs, but a handful of Internet businesses are actually making money.

In breakthroughs that show the promise of e-commerce wasn't all smoke and mirrors, four dot-coms recently reported their first quarterly profits.

The modest achievements of MarketWatch.com Inc., Ask Jeeves Inc., LookSmart Ltd. and Autobytel Inc. reflect the more serious dot-com approach that emerged after the nonsense of Internet mania a few years ago. Remember the days when sock puppets sold pet food on the Internet?

"We used to be up against a lot of stupid money that invested in bad ideas," said Larry Kramer, chief executive of San Francisco-based MarketWatch.com. "Now that most of the bad businesses have disappeared, the remaining companies are getting down to doing some real business."

With their profitable quarters, MarketWatch, Ask Jeeves and LookSmart join other prominent Internet companies that are already in the black.

The list of the Internet's publicly held money makers include eBay Inc., Amazon.com Inc., Yahoo! Inc., Overture Services Inc., Expedia Inc., FindWhat.com Inc. and E-Trade Group Inc.

Several privately owned dot-coms, including search engines Google and DealTime, say they have been making money, too.

Even more dot-coms are expected to become profitable this year.

Internet analyst Safa Rashtchy of US Bancorp Piper Jaffray believes InfoSpace Inc., Netflix Inc. and Overstock.com Inc. will be among the online companies to register their first quarterly profits during 2003.

Meanwhile, Ask Jeeves, MarketWatch and LookSmart are all projecting more operating profits this year.

"Shame on us if we don't keep making money," said Ask Jeeves CEO Skip Battle.

Previous shakeouts in other high-tech fields, such as the personal computer industry, have proven that the early missteps of pioneers point the way to later success for managers who learn from the mistakes.

"Some of these companies are going to survive and become powerhouses," said Internet analyst David Kathman of Morningstar. "Others are going to survive and just become niche players."

The path to prosperity hasn't been smooth.

Online search engine Ask Jeeves lost $699 million in six years before recording a fourth-quarter profit of $2 million, its first from ongoing business operations.

Financial news site MarketWatch lost $252 million in five years before recording a fourth-quarter profit of $854,000.

Search engine LookSmart lost $217 million in six years before posting its fourth-quarter profit of $34.6 million. If not for a one-time gain, LookSmart's earnings would have been $3.4 million. *AP*

DRAKE Gulla, 21 months, from Laguna Niguel, California, pushes the front tire of a Hummer H2 during the Greater Los Angeles Auto Show at the city's Convention Center. The popularity of the Hummer with its poor gas mileage persists at a time when many Americans are increasingly concerned about how the country's dependence on foreign oil affects the country's international relations.

AP

Toothbrush top invention for Americans

NEW YORK—Americans consider the toothbrush the most important invention ever, according to a recent survey that places the motor car in second place, followed by the personal computer, the microwave oven and the cell phone.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology poll shows that 42 percent of adults and 34 percent of teenagers consider the toothbrush, which dates from the 15th century, the most important invention.

Some 37 percent of adults and 31 percent of teenagers viewed the car as the second most important, with 6 percent of adults voting each for the personal computer, microwave and cell phone.

Among adolescents, 16 percent said the personal computer was the third most important, 10 percent said the cell phone, followed by the microwave.

The poll was taken as part of an annual inquiry on the way Americans see invention and innovation polling 1,042 adults and 400 teenagers between Nov. 20-30.

The survey was taken by the Taylor Nelson Sofres Institute. *AFP*

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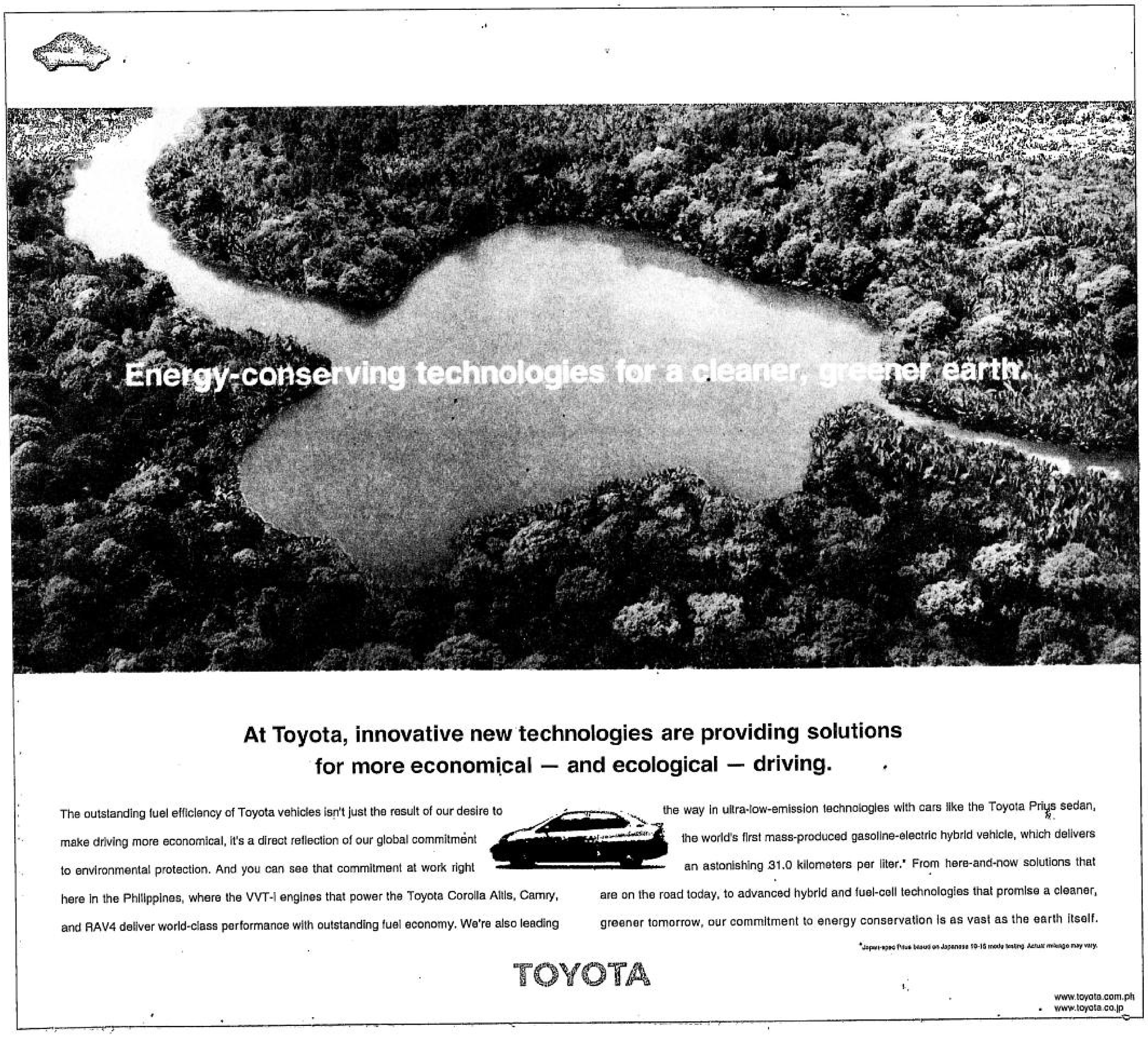
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Hitachi back in black

TOKYO—Japanese electronics giant Hitachi on Tuesday posted a third-quarter net profit of 1.3 billion yen ($10.8 million), reversing a 115.8-billion-yen loss a year ago due to restructuring.

Revenue in the three months to December rose 4.9 percent to 1.92 trillion yen, while pre-tax profit was 6.8 billion yen compared with a 157.9-billion yen loss a year earlier.

"This improvement was mainly due to lower fixed costs brought about by the structural reforms implemented in the previous fiscal year," Hitachi said in a statement.

For the year to March, the company left unchanged its forecast of a net profit of 36 billion yen on pre-tax profit of 130 billion yen and revenue of 8.05 trillion yen.

The company narrowed operating losses at its electronic devices segment to 6 billion yen from 54 billion yen a year earlier in the December quarter. *AFP*

Chip sales up 1.3%

SAN JOSE, California—Global sales of chips edged up just 1.3 percent to $140.7 billion in 2002, but sales were expected to pick up this year, an industry association said Monday.

For the first time since 2000, the SIA anticipates that information-technology spending on hardware will increase this year. The trade group says it expects chip revenue to increase 19.8 percent in 2003 to $169.3 billion.

The slow rise in revenue continued a recovery that began in the fourth quarter of 2001, the Semiconductor Industry Association said.

Fourth-quarter revenue of $37.6 billion was up 1.9 percent from $36.9 billion in the third quarter, the trade group said. That represented the smallest quarter-to-quarter growth in 2002. *AP*

Enron chief sued

WASHINGTON—Creditors of disgraced energy giant Enron Corp. have sued ex chief executive Ken Lay and his wife, Linda, for fraud, seeking the return of more than $70 million, court papers show.

Enron, floundering in accounting scandals, filed on Dec. 2, 2001 for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, under which it could continue to trade while restructuring.

Creditors alleged in a filing late Friday that Lay used Enron stock to repay more than $94 million in cash withdrawn from a revolving company loan. *AFP*

email: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph

PEOPLE at WORK

Editor Raul O. Marcelo ● Subsection Editor Regina Galang Reyes

Setting priorities is key to balanced life

By Ricky B. Garcia

WORK is a paradox—it provides for our families yet keeps us away from them at the same time. How can we split this paradox to get a balanced life?

In the recent People at Work segment on Studio 23's Breakfast, a family man successful in his career shares his insights on achieving a balanced life. Breakfast host Ria Tanjuatco and McGraw Hill marketing executive Jenny Javier interviewed Nonong Contreras on how he manages his obligations to his family and work. He is managing director of Ayala Corporation and Globe Telecom's group head for human resources, and an active member of the International Council of Couples for Christ.

PaW: What is your view on work and family balance?

Nonong: Work and family balance happens when situations are predictable, demands are normal and allocation of quality time is not a problem. However, there are situations where either work or family demands create conflict and one has to make choices based on what one feels is the priority. In my case, family is a priority.

There are stories of famous men in business who were successful in running their businesses but were utter failures in their family lives. Invariably, most of them wished they could be given the chance to relive their lives all over again.

PaW: How do you create a balanced life?

Nonong: I work with a company which has the right corporate values and superiors who live by these values. While the pursuit of excellence is an ideal business ethic, it is achieved by recognizing the primacy and worth of the individual. This means understanding that a happy family life contributes heavily to achieving excellence at work. For instance, I have yet to recall being absent in major events in any of my children's lives like their graduations, school gatherings, birthdays, etc. Likewise, it is second nature for my children to expect that we have to spend time together as a family during Holy Week, All Saints' Day, Christmas, New Year and, if events will allow, on extended trips out of town or abroad.

We create this atmosphere within the family through open communication and ensuring that despite spending less time with them, our children nevertheless feel they are loved and remembered.

PaW: How do you assess your work and family responsibilities and make an action plan if you are not satisfied with your situation?

Nonong: There was a period in my life that I was motivated by an inordinate desire to work and climb up the corporate ladder but at the expense of drifting away from my family to the extent that I felt (more so for my family) that we were leading separate lives.

My life in the renewal and involvement in the community of Couples for Christ 13 years ago has changed that for the best. If the family is focused and centered on the Lord and there is acceptance and submission to His will (because He knows what is best for each one of us), He will not fail us in being a God of good order, putting into order our schedules and priorities. Somehow, He will let the events and circumstances conspire and converge to let the proper priorities surface. For example, sometimes my meetings or corporate affairs get postponed or cancelled and I am able to attend family activities. And at times where there is conflict, my family understands why on rare occasions, work will have to take precedence as I take pains to explain the situation to them.

PaW: What do you do when your role as a parent conflicts with your role as an employee?

Nonong: I have always looked at work (particularly after the renewal) not as a preparation to earning a living and being comfortable but as a preparation for life itself. When work becomes an unreasonable taskmaster and it affects the unity and happiness of the family, it is time to cut clean and bail out. Considering the hard times, this is easier said than done.

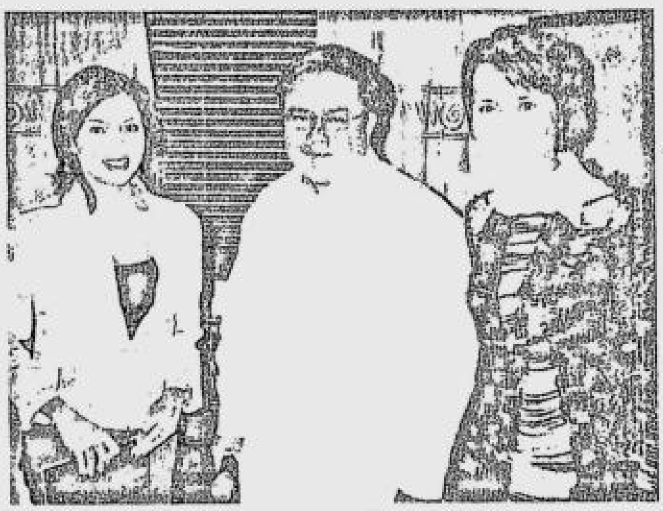
However, I believe parenting should still occupy primacy in terms of our priorities and should not be left to chance, the teacher or the school. Our problem stems from the fact that there is no school to learn this cycle of life. That is why some progressive companies have placed parenting modules as part of their quality of life programs, realizing that a happy family makes for a happy employee.

PaW: How do you establish a better relationship with your children in spite of busy work schedules?

Nonong: I have found out that setting aside time and dates with them help a lot—what we call in our community the conduct of "one-on-ones." I learned a lot about their lives, which I could not have known without these sessions. But now that our children are all grown-up and one is married, the two who are still in the coop know dinner time is our common time for us to be able to catch up on each other's lives. If this fails, there is the interaction after common prayer time at 10 every night to look forward to. Not a week passes that we all either hie off to a trip out of town or visit the latest restaurants. Weekends for all of us are reserved for family interaction and bonding.

PaW: How do you prioritize work deadlines and children's school activities and events?

Nonong: Most of the time, these two events do not coincide, And if it cannot be helped, I explain to the child involved why it becomes necessary to attend to my job. If a parent has been communicating with his kids in all probity, sincerity and candor through the years, they usually understand. However, I make it a point to do a more elaborate make-up job of what has been missed in order to compensate. If the school event is that important such that it represents a milestone in a child's life, I talk to my boss about it. In my employment lifetime, I have had bosses who are doting fathers themselves and they readily give their consent for me to attend to my child's event.



RIA Tanjuatco, Nonong Contreras and Jenny Javier PHOTO BY RICKY GARCIA

Likewise, to make sure deadlines are met and not sacrificed, I have always made it a point to hire key players in my group who are better than me.

PaW: How else can you cope with job and family demands?

Nonong: Pray faithfully to God that you do an excellent job of both and He will make sure you succeed in both endeavors. At work, make sure you know the business and master your craft. Make sure your job is aligned with the strategic goals of the company as a business partner. Don't be a mere pair of hands or an order taker.

Surround yourself with one and two subordinates who are experts (or better than you are) in their respective fields to ensure that tasks are done and deliverables are achieved with quality results and within the required time frame. At home, agree on specific times (for example, evening meals) for interaction and set specific "one-on-ones" with your spouse and children. Never let the night pass without settling family quarrels and disputes, even if it means sleeping late and rising up early to go to the office. Everyone in the family knows this to be my rule and I do the active mediation and settlement of arguments. If I am involved, my wife or one of the kids takes over.

(For suggestions and inquiries, email optima@edsamail.com.ph.*)*

Jobseeker anxiously waits for final interview

By Tita Datu Puangco

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

PLEASE help in my present predicament regarding my application with a hotel chain. I submitted my resumé through fax to a hotel chain. My friends in the hotel industry were the ones who informed me that there were vacant positions there. In the evening of the same day, the hotel personnel called me up and scheduled my interview the next day. The HRD manager conducted the interview and everything went smoothly. A job offer was made and I was then scheduled for a final interview with the CEO.

They called me up again and asked me to go back to the office the next day for another interview with a consultant, which again went well. At the end of the interview session, the consultant gave me his calling card and informed me that he is scheduling my final interview with the CEO of the hotel chain next week.

I expected to get the job due to the positive feedback from the two interviews. So, I reviewed all the management aspects of hotel operations, including sales and marketing. I was all psyched up and excited when the final date arrived. The scheduled interview was at 5 p.m. and I was in the Buendia MRT at 4:45 p.m. when my niece sent me a text message that the scheduled interview was cancelled due to an urgent meeting and that they will just call up for another schedule.

Advice

FOR THE
ANXIOUS PERSON
AT WORK

A week has passed and I have not heard from them. I called up the HRD manager and told her I was still in Manila waiting for the final interview. She advised me that the owner of the hotel property had not returned to Manila and that both he and the hotel CEO will be interviewing me once the owner arrives.

I am now faced with anxiety and low morale since I firmly believe that I passed the interview with flying colors. I have been in the hostelry business for almost 20 years and the job being offered me is really tailor-made for me. Do I have to wait for their call or should I again call up the HRD manager and further inquire from her on the status of my application? What I am doing right now is sending resumés to resorts/hotels that have job vacancies while waiting for the scheduled date of my final interview. I am very optimistic and very positive that the job, through the help of my prayers, will be mine.

Hopeful Applicant

I can imagine how anxiety—provoking your situation is right now, after all the high expectations, then the let-down of not getting that final interview scheduled. What I suggest is to remain optimistic but realistic about the situation. Until you have the job offer right in front of you and signed on the dotted line of the job contract, anything can happen. As a saying goes, "If something can go wrong, it will." There may be some reasons the appointment has not been set. They could have changed their mind about filling up the position. Or a better candidate could have come along. Or maybe they are waiting for permission to create the position. Or it may be true that the executives have busy schedules.

Patience

Meantime, I agree that you should continue sending resumés to other hotels that have job vacancies. Who knows, an even better job may await you. My advice is to live the present moment well. Get organized and get going on an active search. Don't be complacent and dwell in your comfort zone. There is no harm in calling up the HRD manager to find out about the status of your application. Then, ask her if it is fine with her if you call from time to time to inquire on the final interview.

Meantime, take care of yourself. I will pray with you so that you will get the job you are aspiring for. God bless!

(Ms Puangco is CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice through e-mail to ancilla-edc@ pacific.net.ph or fax to 892-2902.)

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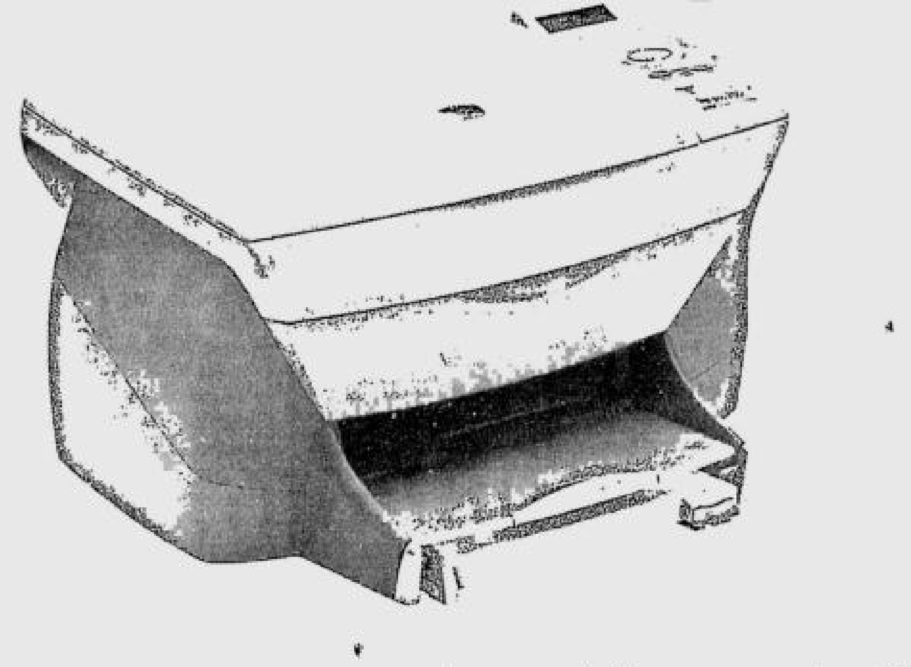

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VARIED AREAS

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P25,000 reservation
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2BR 2 level 8-903-903
/ 0917-8-903-903

LOT

RIZAL

540sm along Felix Ave. Direct 7801594 Tess

CAVITE

391m² P3T/m² neg Metro South Subd 7224205 / 09186507617

VALENZUELA

RUSH!! 150m² nr church mrkt 8909718 ; 09193384431 Lyn

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88 Don Antonio Roxas Chua Pacific Village Alabang Muntinlupa 4 Bedroom / 1 Den Separate T&B Swimming Pool / Waterfall fully aircon Contact 8798543 / 8793098

QUEZON CITY

RUSH Bargain Acropolis 414sqm P30T/sqm 6337601-03

CONDO/TWNHSE

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PASAY

1BR near HERITAGE 7351810

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MANILA

1BR P4.5T 7132259 JULIE

QUEZON CITY

Cubao P3.5 std Lady 4381480

WAREHOUSE/ FACTORY

53 GOV PASCUAL WHSE 3610652

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Overlooking Bay Roxas Blvd. Executive Suite 3br 3tb 168m² Semi-Fur w/Prk, Md/RTB Contact Ricky 0918-9187473 Dina 0917-3500359 • 826-4022

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2% w/o Taking Car 0966633

2% w/o Taking Car 7228942/43

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SALES ASST. 18-28 yrs. 8994470

SALES SUPERVISORS 9101800

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

CAREGIVER TRNG 5276418

AUCTION SALE

MARA PAWNSHOP BR. of 2410-18 P. Gil St. Sta. Ana Manila Auction Sale on Feb. 11, 2003, Tues. at 2:30 in the afternoon, respectively, Sept. 14 - Oct. 11, 2002.
Sons of J. Lanuza,
Auctioneer

MARA PAWNSHOP I, II, III, IV and Comembo Br. of Makati City. Auction Sale on Feb. 11, 2003, Tues. at 10:30, 11.00, 1:30, 12:30 and 8:30 in the morning and on the afternoon. Respectively Sept. 14-Oct. 11, 2002.
Sons of J. Lanuza, Auctioneer

MI MARA PAWNSHOP of 251 Quirino Ave., Baclaran Paranaque, M M Auction Sale on Feb.11, 2003, Tues.at 4:00 in the afternoon. Respectively, Sept.14-Oct. 11, 2002. Sons of J. Lanuza, Auctioneer.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ANGIE A. PATIAG who died on Jan. 5, 2003 has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs per Doc 54, Page 96, Book XI, Series of 2003 dated Dec. 31, 2003 of Notary Public Jose Ronald V. Valles of Pasig City.
(PDI-Jan. 5, 12, & 19 2003)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late AMANDO T. BERNARDO with waiver of rights has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc. No. 422; Page No. 86; Book No. III; Series of 2003 before Notary Public Atty. Rommel L. Yap of Pasig City
(PDI-Jan.22,29&Feb.5, 2003)

The estate of the late ANASTACIO C. CACAY-ORIN was extrajudicially partitioned with waiver on January 24, 2003 by his heirs Fidela, Edwin Sr., Jean and Wilson, acknowledged before Notary Public Thomas T. Que, Jr. as Doc No. 639, Page No. 28, Book No. II, Series of 2003.
(PDI-Feb. 5, 12 & 19, 2003)

NOTICE OF LOSS

THIS IS TO INFORM THE PUBLIC OF THE LOSS OF J ACR #B-335916-MLA 3/3/82 OF MICHAEL PANTOJA SINCE 2001

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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BOARD OF INVESTMENTS
TRADE & INDUSTRY PHILIPPINES

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of **ASIANA PHILIPPINES GSA, INC.** with office address at **Constellation Building, Makati Avenue corner Constellation Street, Makati City** for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended, as **New IT Service Firm in the field of Business Process Outsourcing** with project site at the **same office address stated above** has been officially accepted on **January 17, 2003.**

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

Issued this 17 January, 2003.

(Sgd.) **FRANCISCO C. CHAVEZ**
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI - Feb. 5, 2003)

BOARD OF INVESTMENTS
TRADE & INDUSTRY PHILIPPINES

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of **FTN GARMENTS' CORPORATION** with office address at **Barangay Maguyam, Silang, Cavite** for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended, as **New Export Producer of Garments at a capacity of 128,400 dozens per year with project site at the same office address stated above has been officially accepted on January 23, 2003.**

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

Issued this 23rd day of January 2003.

(Sgd.) FRANCISCO C. CHAVEZ
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI - Feb. 5, 2003)

CHRISTIAN TRUCKERS
NEEDED IMMEDIATELY

Increasing requirements of AUV closed vans, 4W/6W and 10W closed vans.

All interested truckers must submit their proposal together with the following documents:

DTI/SEC Registration • Mayor's Permit • Owner/President bio-data • LTO Certificate of Registration • LTO Official Receipt • Latest NBI or PNP clearance of drivers & crews • Picture (full length) of each unit • Smoke belching Certificate • Hauling experience/list of clients • Summary list of vehicles (Veh. type, plate nos.)

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INQUIRER TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Constructive distinction

Q. What's the difference between *cement* and *concrete?*

A. In general, *cement* is any chemical binding agent that makes things stick to it or to each other, e.g., glue, paste, and Portland cement. In the construction industry, *cement* specifically refers to an adhesive consisting of clay and rock materials that form a paste when mixed with water. *Concrete* is a construction material made up of such items as gravel, sand, slag, and pebbles held together by cement. That is, *cement* is the binding element in *concrete.*

Ooops! Portland cement is not made in Portland, Oregon, or in Portland, Maine, or, for that matter, in any city named Portland. In fact, the Portland part has no connection whatsoever with cement at all. The term derives from the Isle of Portland in England, and yet cement was never made there either. Portland cement was invented in 1824 by a stonemason named Joseph Aspdin, of Leeds, England. He called his product Portland cement because it resembled Portland stone, limestone quarried on the Isle of Portland. For the technically minded, Portland cement is a hydraulic cement made by heating a mixture of limestone and clay (containing oxides of calcium, aluminum, iron, and silicon) in a kiln and pulverizing the resultant clinker.

Past Forward. This day in 1922: A new monthly magazine was launched in New York City with an appealing formula – the *Reader's Digest* offered 31 condensed articles from leading magazines, each one 'of enduring value and interest.' It was the brainchild of DeWitt Wallace, a former book salesman, who finally published the magazine himself on a shoestring budget after he was unable to find backers for his idea in his native Minnesota.

WORD WATCH

Pahina : from the Spanish *pagina*, 'page.'

PDI – February 5, 2003

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY
PNOC Building VI, Energy Center
Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, M.M.
Tel. No.: 555-0293 / 840-1440

PNOC
The Energy Company

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY (PNOC) invites interested Suppliers/Contractors to pre-qualify and bid for the following requirements:

A. Project No. : WEM-03-001
Project Title : Surveying of PNOC lots at Bauan, Batangas covered by the Lease Agreement with Keppel Philippines Shipyard, Inc.
Bid Deadline : **February 25, 2003**

Interested ACCREDITED parties may obtain bid forms upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 per bid package from the PNOC-Property and Supply Management Division (PSMD) at the G/F of the PNOC Building.

Interested parties who are not yet accredited must first pass the pre-qualification process. Pre-qualification documents-checklist is available at the said address upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00, which must be accomplished and submitted to PSMD on or before **February 14, 2003 (5:00 P.M.)**. Failure to pre-qualify would render the concerned parties automatically disqualified from this bidding.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security equivalent to 10% of the total bid price but not to exceed ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00) secured from any one of PNOC's accredited bonding companies.

The PNOC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive formality therein or to accept such bids or to award any work that are considered most advantageous to the company.

B. FUTURE REQUIREMENTS

The PNOC also invites Suppliers and Contractors to apply for accreditation for future requirements for the following products and services:

- Office Equipment and Supplies
- Hardware Tools and Supplies
- Purified Drinking Water
- Pest Control Services
- Surveying and Appraisal Services
- Canteen Concessionaire
- IT Equipment, peripherals & supplies
- Electrical Equipment and Supplies
- Printing Services
- Shuttle Bus/Transportation Services
- PABX Maintenance Services
- Plant Rental

Interested parties may obtain pre-qualification documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 from the PNOC-Property and Supply Management Division (PSMD) at the PNOC Building.

Applicants with favorable result shall be included in the PNOC's List of Accredited Suppliers and Contractors and shall be eligible to join future biddings forCompany's requirements.

(Sgd.) ATTY. PEDRO A. AQUINO, JR.
Senior Vice President
Legal, Administrative and
Estate Management Services

(PDI – Jan. 29 & Feb. 5, 2003)

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Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
Veterans Ave., Zamboanga City

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and Bid

The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM (SSS) Zamboanga City is inviting bidders to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid for a two (2) years contract for any or all of the following:

A.	**SECURITY SERVICES** for	**Approved Budget**
	Zamboanga, Basilan, Pagadian, Ipil, Dipolog, Jolo & Tawi-Tawi Offices	PhP 3,349,210.84
B.	**JANITORIAL SERVICES** for	**Approved Budget**
	Zamboanga, Basilan, Pagadian, Ipil, Dipolog, Jolo & Tawi-Tawi Offices	PhP 1,487,145.38

Application for eligibility is open to all security/janitorial agencies with at least 5 years experience, and with valid license or business permit to undertake the services described herein.

Issuance for Eligibility Forms will be available to interested bidders from **January 30, 2003** to **February 12, 2003** at the BAC Secretariat, Administrative & General Accounting Section, 2nd Floor, Phidco Bldg., SSS Zamboanga City.

Submission of Eligibility Requirements for Security and Janitorial services shall be on **February 28, 2003 and February 29, 2003 respectively from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM** for screening on a pass/fail criteria at the BAC Secretariat.

Distribution of the terms of reference, Bid Proposal form, Draft of the proposed Contract to eligible bidders will be on **March 05, 2003** upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P3,000.00 for security services and P1,000.00 for janitorial services.

All eligible bidders issued with bid documents are required to attend the Pre-Bid Conference on **March 17, 2003** at 9:00 AM for security and 2:00 PM for janitorial services at the Conference Room, Office of the AVP/Cluster Head, 3rd Floor, Phidco Bldg., SSS Zamboanga City.

Submission of duly accomplished Bid Proposals for Security and Janitorial Services shall be on or before **March 24, 2003 at 8:30 AM and 1:30 PM respectively**. Opening of the Bids shall be on **April 24, 2003 at 9:00 AM for Security Services and 2:00 PM for Janitorial Services** at the Conference Room, Office of the AVP/Cluster Head, 3rd Floor, Phidco Bldg., SSS Zamboanga City, in the presence of COA Auditor and participating bidders or their authorized representatives.

All Bids shall be accompanied by Bid Security (Bid Bond) in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's equivalent to 1% of the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) or 2-1/2% of the ABC in the form of a Surety Bond (GSIS only).

The SSS reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any formality or defects and to make an award to the proposal most advantageous to the System. The SSS neither assumes any obligation for whatsoever losses that the bidders may incur in the preparation of their bids nor guarantees that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) ADELAIDA H. DRAPIZA
Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee – Cluster

(PDI – Feb. 5, 2003)

Sweet Nothings

People often celebrate Valentine's day by giving flowers, chocolates and cards, but why not do something unique for a change?

This coming **February 14, 2003**, Valentine's day, **INQUIRER MESSAGEBOARD**will give way to personal greetings, love quotes and declaration of.love for that special someone in your life.

Avail of this promo at a discounted rate of P50 per line and P150 per column centimeter box ads.
• Rates are VAT exclusive •

SAMPLE ADS

Iane,
"LOVE" How can such a small word mean so much?
Happy Valentine's day!
love
Red

size: 1 col x 4 cm

Valentine's like you, Trish, don't come along everyday. I love you. – Paul

size: 3 lines

My heart beats for you and only for you, Tim. This Valentine's day, let's paint the town red – Mimi

size: 4 lines

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MESSAGEBOARD
INQUIRER
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OBITUARIES

"I am
the way,
the truth
and the
life.
No one
comes
to the
Father
except
through
Me.

John 14:6

PILAR PEROY vda. AMBROSIO

Peacefully joined our Lord and her husband
Hermogenes Ambrosio on February 3, 2003
at the age of 77.

The family led by her sister **Socorro P. Santos** and her children **Teresa, Francis, Roditha, Francisco & Elsa**.

Grandchildren **Emmanuel, Mary Grace, Marissa, Candelaria, Melissa, Michael, Jackielyn, Jeffrey & Elea France**, relatives and friends request for prayers and her eternal life.

Her remains lie in state in Modesta St., San Jose, Antique.

Interment will be on February 9, 2003 after the 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass at San Jose Catholic Cemetery.

Rev. Fr. Mylo Ladislao Patacsil Dacayo II

Born in Talugtog, Nueva Ecija, Fr. Mylo served as the
Parochial Vicar of St. Joseph Cathedral, San Jose City,
Nueva Ecija and as Parish Administrator of
St. Jerome Parish in Baloc, Sto. Domingo, Nueva Ecija.

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on January 28, 2003 at the age of 32.

The priests, religious and lay people of the Diocese of San Jose, Nueva Ecija, led by His Excellency, Most Rev. Leo M. Drona, SDB, DD, as well as the bereaved family of Fr. Mylo, request you to remember him in your Masses and prayers, confident that the good Lord, Whom Fr. Mylo has faithfully served, will bestow love and mercy upon his soul.

Interment will be on February 7, 2003 at Talugtog Cemetery, after the 8 a.m. Holy Mass at the Mother of Perpetual Help Parish, Talugtog, Nueva Ecija.

"I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in Me will never die."
Jn. 11:25

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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Day before publication

IN FONDEST MEMORY
FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY
OF
Soledad Velez Pangilinan

OCTOBER 6, 1921 - FEBRUARY 5, 2002

"We miss you often and so much, Mommy"

THE HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS WILL BE OFFERED TODAY (FEBRUARY 5, 2003)
AT THE FOLLOWING VENUES:

1. FAMILY MAUSOLEUM- MANILA MEMORIAL PARK, SUCAT, PARAÑAQUE CITY
   PLAZA OF HOPE 8:30 AM
2. ST. JAMES THE GREAT PARISH- AYALA ALABANG VILLAGE, MUNTINLUPA CITY
   6:20 AM AND 6:30 PM
3. ST. JEROME & STA. SUSANA PARISH- ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
   6:00 AM; 12:15 PM AND 6:00 PM
4. ST. BENEDICT COLLEGE CHAPEL- ALABANG HILLS, MUNTINLUPA CITY
   6:15 AM AND 6:30 PM
5. PRESENTATION OF THE CHILD JESUS PARISH- BF HOMES, PARAÑAQUE CITY
   6:00 AM; 6:45 AM AND 7:00 PM
6. DON BOSCO CHURCH- ARNAIZ AVENUE (FORMERLY PASAY ROAD), MAKATI CITY
   7:30 AM
7. NUESTRA SEÑORA DE GUIA- ERMITA, MANILA
   7:30 PM
8. STO. NIÑO DE PAZ CHAPEL- GREENBELT, MAKATI CITY
   7:15 AM
9. PARISH OF THE RESURRECTION, BF HOMES, PARAÑAQUE CITY
   6:30 AM

SK. Abelardo E. Hernandez

Master of the 4th Degree
of Catarman, Northern Samar

PONTIFICIAL AWARD [POPE JOHN XXIII] PRO ECCLESIA ET PONTIFICE
AWARD FOR LEADERSHIP AS DISTRICT DEPUTY [KNIGHTS OF
COLUMBUS] DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD – MASTER WITH STAR
[FROM THE SUPREME ASSEMBLY OF KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS (1987)]
1991 NATIONAL GINTONG AMA AWARDEE
[GINTONG AMA – INA FOUNDATION, INC.]

Died in the Grace of our Lord on February 2, 2003, Sunday, at the age of 87.

His wife **Remedios Hernandez**; children & son-/daughter-in-law; **Antonio & Asuncion Hernandez, Susana Hernandez, Rafaela & Norman Diaz, Ana & Dionisio Claro (†) Uy**; grandchildren **Marlo, Kathleen, Carlo, Fara Leah, Cyril, Angeli, Kristine, Marianne**; relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence in Catarman, Northern Samar.

Interment will be on Saturday, February 8, 2003.

On the
Thirty-Seventh Death Anniversary of

NARCISA B. DE LEON

we lovingly remember and once more offer HOLY MASSES tomorrow, Thursday, February 6, 2003, at 9:00 a.m. at the family residence at 35 Doña Juana Rodriguez, New Manila, Quezon City, and at the following churches:

BASILICA OF THE BLACK NAZARENE *Parish of St. John the Baptist, Quiapo, Manila*	6:00 AM
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH, *Lantana, Cubao, Quezon City*	6:00 AM
MARY THE QUEEN PARISH, *Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila*	6:00 AM
NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE MOST HOLY ROSARY *Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon City*	6:00 AM
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE, *Greenhills, Mandaluyong City*	6:15 AM
ST. JOHN BOSCO PARISH, *Arnaiz St., Makati City*	6:30 AM
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH, *Pinaglabanan, San Juan, Metro Manila*	6:30 AM
SHRINE OF MARY QUEEN OF PEACE (Our Lady of EDSA) *EDSA cor. Ortigas Avenue, Quezon City*	6:30 AM
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL PARISH, *San Marcelino, Ermita, Manila*	6:30 AM
DIVINE WORD MISSION SEMINARY (Christ the King) *E. Rodriguez, Sr. Boulevard, Quezon City*	6:30 AM
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO, *McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City*	7:30 AM
BASILICA OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION *(Manila Metropolitan Cathedral) Intramuros, Manila*	7:30 AM
STA. CRUZ PARISH, *Sta. Cruz, Manila*	8:00 AM
MT. CARMEL SHRINE, *Juana Rodriguez Avenue, New Manila, Quezon City*	6:00 PM

We, her family, requests relatives, friends and the pious readers to join us in our prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

We lovingly remember
our dearly beloved

WILLIAM F. GEMPERLE

(† February 6, 1983)
on his 20th death anniversary.

Holy Mass is being offered on Thursday, February 6, 2003 at the following churches:

- St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish, Magallanes Village, Makati City	6:15 A.M., 7:00 A.M. & 6:00 P.M.
- Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park	6:00 P.M.
- St. John Bosco Parish, Makati City	12:15 P.M.
- San Ildefonso Parish, Pio del Pilar, Makati City	6:00 A.M.
- National Shrine of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, San Antonio Village, Makati City	7:00 A.M.
- Sto. Niño de Paz (Greenbelt) Chapel	7:15 A.M.
- St. Joseph Parish, Tambo, Parañaque	6:30 A.M.
- St. Joseph Parish (Bamboo Organ), Las Piñas	6:00 A.M.
- St. Andrew Parish, La Huerta, Parañaque	12:00 Noon
- Shrine of Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life, Pope John Paul II Youth Center	5:30 P.M.
- Our Lady of Sorrows Church, F.B. Harrison, Pasay City	6:00 A.M.
- Our Lady of Remedies, Malate Church	6:00 A.M.
- Nuestra Señora de Guia, Ermita Church	6:00 A.M.
– St. Jerome & Sta. Susana Parish, Ayala Alabang	6:00 A.M., 12:15 P.M. & 6:00 P.M.
– St. James Parish, Ayala Alabang	6:20 A.M & 6:30 P.M.
– Presentation of the Child Jesus Parish, B.F. Homes, Parañaque City	6:00 A.M., 6:45 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.
Parish Church of the Resurrection BF Homes, Parañaque	5:30 A.M., 6:30 A.M. & 6:30 P.M.

The family requests relatives, friends and readers to remember him in prayer.

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints."
Psalm 116:15 (NIV)

Gregorio F. Llenado, Jr.

(December 19, 1924 – February 03, 2003)

has gone home to be with the Lord at the Gracious age of 78.

He is survived by his wife **MOLLY** and children **MARISOL & SHANE**.

His remains can be viewed at the **Garden Suite** of the **Loyola Memorial Chapels** in Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on February 6, 2003 at 6:00 a.m. at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

"In peace I shall both lie down and sleep, for you alone, Lord, make me secure." Psalm 4:9

WILFREDO SISON RACAZA, JR.

November 9, 1971 – February 4, 2003

His loving parents **Willy** and **Linda**; sisters **May** and **Teena**; brother **Raymond**; brother-in-law **Caloy**; niece **Anika**; relatives and friends request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Bonifacio Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park), Parañaque City.

Novena prayers are held daily after the 7:30 p.m. Mass.

Cremation follows after the 8:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, February 9, 2003.

Our Dearly Beloved Papa

ATTY. TOMAS FAIN FALCONITIN

Of Odiongan, Romblon and Pasig City
Department of Labor and Employment, NCR

Peacefully joined his Creator on February 3, 2003 at the age of 57.

His loving wife **GENEDINA**, sons **TOMAS MARION** and **TOMAS JUSTINE**, sisters and brothers, relatives, colleagues and friends, mourn his passing away and request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, February 9, 2003, at 9:00 a.m. at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Parañaque City.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
1. Copy of Death Certificate
2. Any identification document (I.D.)

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I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

People, Events & Products

Email: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
Aries Espinosa, Editor
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Adidas-Salomon AG complies with Retail Trade Liberalization Law

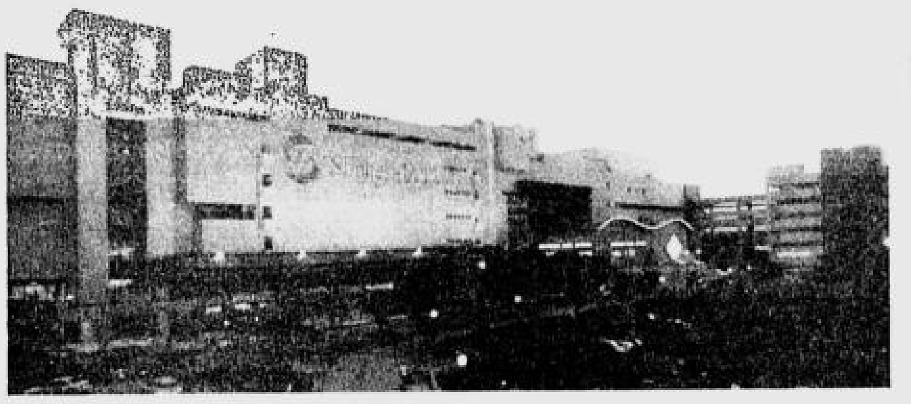
THE BOARD of Investments (BOI) recently awarded adidas-Salomon AG a certificate of compliance for having complied with the pre-qualification requirements for foreign retailers under Category D of RA 8762, or the Retail Trade Liberalization law and its Implementing Rules and Regulations. The certificate prequalifies adidas-Salomon AG to engage in retail trade in the Philippines as a Category D foreign retailer of high-end or luxury brands. It is the first company to qualify under this category.

The adidas-Salomon Group is a globally established company in the sporting goods industry with a tradition of over 50 years. Its current brand portfolio includes, besides the adidas brand, also Salomon, Taylor Made, Mavic, Bonfire and Arc'Teryx. As such, it specializes in the design, marketing, manufacturing and distribution of high-end and branded apparel, footwear and hardware in the sports and leisure segment.

The adidas brand also has a long tradition in the Philippines, and has established its local subsidiary – adidas Philippines Inc. – in 1995. The local subsidiary engages in the wholesale distribution of adidas, Salomon and Taylor Made branded goods for the Philippine market. It sources a substantial volume of locally manufactured apparel and footwear items in the Philippines.

Currently, there are more than twenty franchised adidas shops all over the country. John Alonte managing director of adidas Philippines Inc. says it is committed to honoring the franchise agreements with its partners. Rather than compete with its franchisees, it aims to complement them in optimizing the adidas brand's market performance across varying distribution networks.

FROM left: adidas Philippines Inc. accounting supervisor Juancho Ong, chief finance officer MJ Chavez, general manager for sales Bing Paras, managing director and president John Alonte, with Governor Manuel S. Alba and legal department BOI executive director Lucita P. Reyes and adidas Philippines Inc. marketing director Angelica Sulza.



MORE SHOPPING PLEASURES AT SHANGRI-LA PLAZA

In line with its continuing efforts at hassle-free and pleasurable shopping, Shangri-La Plaza announces the addition of more shops and outlets. Catering to the discriminating shopper, these include fashion leaders like Top Shop, British India, Furla, People are People, Shoe Salon, Puma, Union Bay, and the Bead Shop. Q Power Station provides fun and games for the young at heart. Shell canvas carries a wide range of home, décor and upholstery products. Telecommunication accessories and gadgets may be found at City Light, while an eclectic selection of watches and timepieces are on sale at Time Depot. Likewise, foodies will be glad to know that Red Crab and Fiorgelato are also at the mall. Shangri-La Plaza is located at the corners of Edsa and Shaw Boulevard. Daily mall hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, please call 6337851 to 70.

TOTALGAZ ADDS FLAVOR TO FESTIVAL

TotalGaz, the country's leading LPG brand completed the ingredient for a perfect pasta during the grand finals of the San Remo 'Inter-Village Pasta Recipe Making Competition'. TotalGaz, the LPG brand of TotalFinaElf Philippines (TFE Phils.) was the official LPG used by the amateur cooks who showcased their expertise in pasta cooking and ingenuity in concocting original pasta recipes. In photo is Lara Melissa de Leon, the host of the event, together with the winners (from left): Angelina Intengan, 1st runner up; Joy Taligumba, 2nd runner up; Edna Cuaresma, 3rd runner up and the champion from Ayala Alabang Village; Mike Cuyugan who whipped up his winning pasta called Dish Fetu-ju. The winners each won cash prize from San Remo Total gift packs.

GOLF CUP TOURNAMENT
DECEMBER 12, 2002

THE FIRST CHINATRUST ULTIMATE GOLF CLUB

Chinatrust (Philippines) Commercial Bank successfully held its first Ultimate Golf Cup Tournament last Dec. 12 at Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club, General Trias, Cavite. The 'by-invitation' tourney was attended by top 67 clients of the southern cluster of the bank, specifically Alabang, Imus, Carmona and Sucat branches. Other Chinatrust branch managers were present to support the bank's event. In photo (front row from left) Alfred Chua, SVP for small business loans; Cecille Ramos, Greenhills branch manager; Rafael Sison Jr., FVP for sales and distribution; Betty Salgado, Alabang BM; Thomas Chen, vice chair; Cathy Alonso, AVP for marketing services; and sportscaster Anthony Suntay. And on the back row from left: Gerry Munda, FVP for marketing; Mandrake Medina, Imus BM; Kite Martin, marketing services officer; Cheryl Tan, Arranque BM; Isa Fernandez, Sucat BM; Paul Cañeda, Imus branch cashier; Glenn De La Cruz, Marikina branch manager.

MANILA MIDTOWN STAGES STORY-SHARING

Everyday for a week, children from Pangarap Foundation and Sun for All Children flocked to the Manila Midtown Hotel's Gallery Area. No, the Manila Midtown Hotel (MMH) hasn't been turned into a school or a day care center – the hotel hosted story-sharing sessions especially for the country's less privileged. The children, ages 8 to 18, were treated to an afternoon of learning and enjoyment as they listened enthusiastically to stories read by the staff of Museo Pambata. MMH opted for 'story-sharing' instead of 'story-telling' to stress personalized interaction rather than performance. MMH realizes the value of story-sharing. It is one of the oldest forms of education that throughout history has helped improve listening and speaking skills, stimulate critical and creative thinking, increase awareness and understanding, and create a climate for unity among diversity. By this activity, the hotel wants to help extend these benefits to some of the nations future deciders. The event was supported by Universal Robina Corporation, Powerbooks and Tahanan Books.

PTC whacked off in Sta. Elena

AFTER staging a successful qualifying round in Sta. Elena Golf & Country Club last Feb. 1, the Philippine Tourism Cup (PTC) now gears up on its second of a series of qualifying rounds featuring the Southern Tagalog Region in Canlubang Golf & Country Club on Feb. 14 and 15.

Twenty two teams, composed of four members each, competed in Sta. Elena. Philippine Tourism Cup executive director, assistant secretary Salvador D. Sarabia Jr. of the Department of Tourism and co-executive director, deputy general manager Dion Diaz of the Philippine Tourism Authority together with NPDC executive director Jaime Recio and Joe Montaño, tournament committee chair of Sta. Elena did the ceremonial tee-off.

In the men's division, class A team champion with a total stableford points of 106 was bagged by Henry Sy, Herbert Chan, Jeffrey Siy and Samson Lim. Winning by countback were Hiroshi Endo, Nobuhiro Ishijima, Tom Nakayama and Shiro Sekiya for class B team champion. Jun Villacorta, Cholo Cayanga, Toti Scarella and Nicolo Cayanga as class C team champion.

Capping the ladies division as class A team champion were Vinice Godio, Alice Jose, Mary Anne Colayco and Lily Chan with a stableford total points of 111. EJ Villacorta, Marilen Yaptangco, Nini Masigan and Fely Lopez as class B team champion.

Men's low gross champion is Peter Chan with a gross score of 74 while Vinice Godio got the low gross for the ladies with 79.

The Philippine Tourism Cup is a year-round of tournaments sponsored by the Department of Tourism in celebration of Visit Philippines 2003. It is composed of three levels: qualifying rounds, regional championship and the national championship. Emi J. Castañeda serves as the over-all tournament director.

The tournament is open to all amateur golfers nationwide with a participation fee of P600. For registration and particulars, contact the Philippine Tourism Cup secretariat at 536-1133.

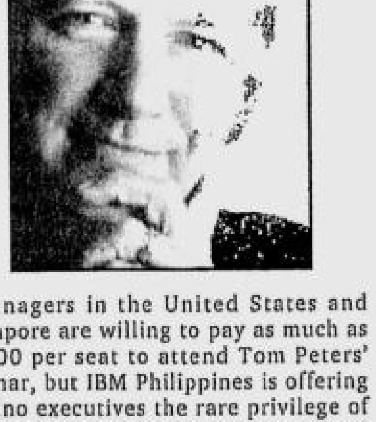
IBM Philippines brings in Tom Peters

GET BETTER business even during tougher times.

This is the promise of America's leading management guru Tom Peters to over 500 top-level executives and businessmen all over Asia who are expected to gather together at the Shangri-La Plaza Manila in Makati City on Feb. 11 for the management event of the decade: Tom Peters Live in Manila, presented by IBM Philippines.

The seminar will take one whole day, starting at 8:50 a.m. and closing at 5 p.m., and will consist of eight sessions with coffee breaks, lunch and insightful Q&As.

Participants are expected to hear and learn no less than the unconventional views Peters has been known for, as well as inspiring insights on the concerns of today's executives: "Lessons on Leadership," "Boss-Free Implementation," "Brand Power," "Design Mindedness," "Women and the Web." Peters will also give a report on the "three generations" of "In Search of Excellence", the sensational business book he co-authored with Bob Waterman, which revolutionized business practices in America. "In Search of Excellence" was ranked as the "greatest business book of all time" in a 1992 poll by Britain's Bloomburry Publishing.



Managers in the United States and Singapore are willing to pay as much as $1,500 per seat to attend Tom Peters' seminar, but IBM Philippines is offering Filipino executives the rare privilege of hearing Tom Peters speak for reduced early bird fees: P8,977 ($168) for half a day, P12,977 ($240) for the whole day, and P27,977 ($520) for the whole day inclusive of a CEO roundtable luncheon with the speaker.

Salt and Light Ventures Inc. is the official organizer of Tom Peters Live in Manila, with DHL Philippines, The Philippine Daily Inquirer and BCD Pinpoint Direct Marketing Inc. as the official sponsors.

To reserve seats, or for more information, call the Secretariat at 896-1336 or 890-5012.

PPC TELECASTS ON RPN 9

RPN 9 signed a memorandum of agreement with BusinessWorks Inc., organizer of the recently concluded Philippine Parenting Convention (PPC), giving the channel exclusive rights to telecast the much-talked about four-day convention on Feb. 8 from 9 to 11 p.m. Being the first and only gathering of its kind in the country, the PPC discussed the issues and opportunities in modern-day parenting and served as a forum to motivate and equip parents in pursuing the challenge of parenting and rediscovering its joys. At the signing were Cerge Remonde (left), chair of RPN 9, with Anthony Pangilinan, president of BusinessWorks Inc. and convenor/chair of the PPC.

BITS Clips

Free clinic for cancer patients

AMONG the direct services offered by the Philippine Cancer Society to the general public is a free consultation and referral clinic held every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. The society is located at the Philippine Cancer Society Headquarters at 310 San Rafael Street, San Miguel, Manila. Do you have a question on Cancer? Call the Philippine Cancer Society hotline at 734-2131, or visit the DOH-PCS website at www.kanser.com.ph, a one-stop website for any one in the Philippines looking for cancer topics pertinent to the Philippines. Please say a prayer for those touched by cancer. Watch "Kasama sa Panalangin", a Cancer Prayer Rally/Concert on NBN Channel 4 on Sunday, Feb. 16 at 9:10 to 10:30 p.m.

Eastwood City celebrates red-letter days

THIS February, Eastwood City paints the town red with the promise of love and good fortune. Ongoing until Feb. 27, the Eastwood Night Market will hold a Love n' Luck Festival to celebrate Valentine's Day and the Chinese New Year. The Eastwood Night Market is open from 5 p.m. to 12 midnight on weekdays and up to 2 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Onwards from Feb. 7, City Walk presents "Love Stories @ Fashion Square." Movie aficionados can get their hands on the most celebrated romantic films of screen sweethearts Julia Roberts, Audrey Hepburn, and more. These hits will be available at the Fashion Square lobby. On Feb. 13, FM station Wave 89.1 will hold its Valentine event at the Central Plaza. On Feb. 21, the Central Plaza will host the PBA Kick-off Party to celebrate the opening of the new PBA season.

Dare to be different!

THE BRITISH Council's Education Counselling Service (ECS) and British Council Philippines will host the fifth British Education Fair to be held at the Manila Peninsula Hotel on Feb. 8 and 9. This will serve as an important follow-up to the previous exhibitions, which increased awareness in the Philippines for the capabilities and strengths of the UK education and training sector in the hopes of attracting more Filipinos to study in the United Kingdom. The British Council presents literally thousands of courses for students to choose from and hundreds of schools, colleges and universities in which to study. Attendees can likewise get information about the streamlined visa application process now in place for international students. For more information, call Juliet Enriquez or Jansen Mayor at 914-1011 to 14.

THE NO.1 CONDOMINIUM HOMES

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LUXURY GARDEN RESIDENCES

Come Home to Paradise.

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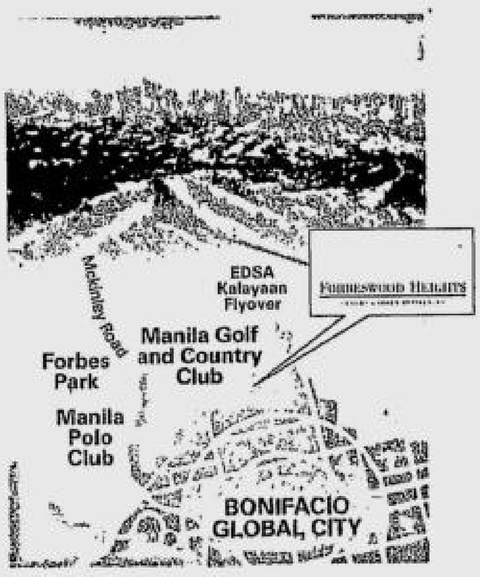
Low-density paradise	Enjoy the private, relaxing ambience of a low-density neighborhood unmatched anywhere else in the city, with an almost 6,000-square-meter central park featuring well-sculpted gardens and leaf-covered promenades, along with palm-lined swimming pools with sunbathing lounges, a tennis court, children's playground and putting green.
Kid-friendly	Children can run around safely in their very own playground. Or in the sprawling lawns that provide a clean, green and vehicle-free play space for kids.
Beautifully designed and crafted homes	Live in homes that truly celebrate life. Comforts and conveniences of a high standard are provided, from cozy living space with quality materials and finishes to strict security and efficient building maintenance services that give you peace of mind.
Wide choice of home layouts	Aside from one-bedroom and executive studio layouts, you can combine adjacent units to transform them into two- or three-bedroom layouts. Best of all, the homes at Forbeswood Heights come with unbelievable prices and terms custom-tailored for upwardly mobile urban professionals like you.
A dining strip just steps away	Discover the many pleasures Forbes Town Road has to offer. Its exciting row of restaurants, cafes and shops almost a kilometer long placed end-to-end is just a stone's throw from your gates.
World-class environment	Your home at Forbeswood Heights is nestled within the Bonifacio Global City, amid a blooming landscape dotted with interesting public art pieces. It is supported by the Global City's state-of-the-art infrastructure, utilities and amenities including The Fort Bus transport system.



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LIFESTYLE
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to be young • to be you • to be young • to be you • To be you!
2bU!

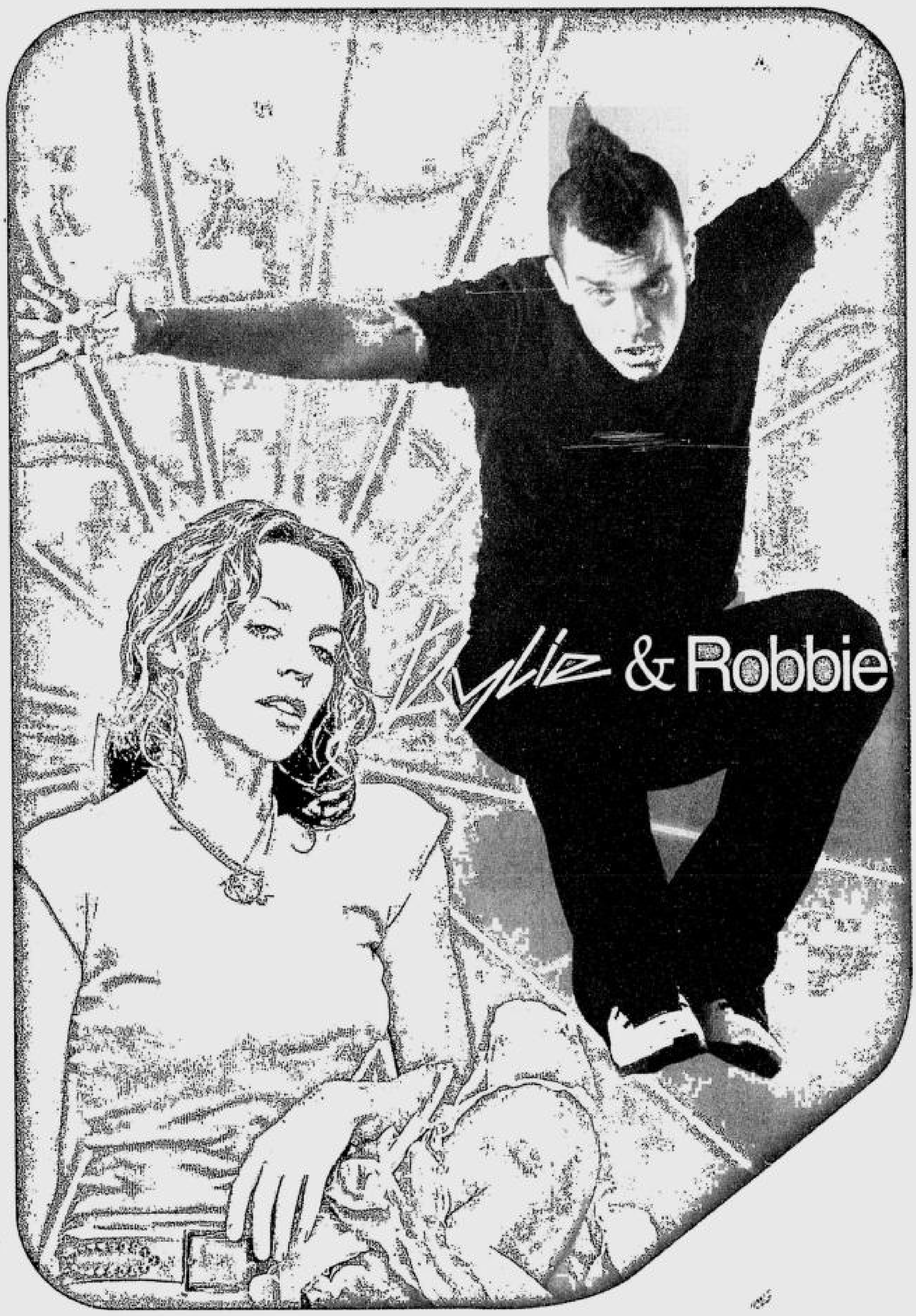
swings to Singapore

This week, 2bU! looks east and swings over to Singapore where we discover life outside Sentosa—shopping, nightlife, cultural encounters and a fun, fun time at the city of fines. To add spice to this premier port of Asia, we posed with Pinoy supermodel Brent Chua, raised the roof with Missy Elliot and stalked Robbie Williams.

In this issue, find out how the Lion City, despite its having been tamed into a safe haven, delightfully roars.

Simply a double feature

Kylie & Robbie



Kylie & Robbie

RINGTONES

To download regular tones:

Key in TONE <keyword> and send to 209.

To download polytones:

For Nokia MMS phones: Key in MMS <keyword> and send to 209*.
For Ericsson MMS phones: Key in MMS <keyword> T68 and send to 209*.

- **Love At First Sight** keyword: *firstsight*
- **In Your Eyes** keyword: *inureyes*
- **Come Into My World** keyword: *in2myworld*
- **Can't Get You Out Of My Head** keyword: *outfmyhead*
- **Feel** keyword: *feel*
- **She's The One** keyword: *shesdone*
- **Better Man** keyword: *betterman*
- **Rock DJ** keyword: *rockdj*

PICTURE MESSAGES

KYLIEP1
KYLIELOGOP
ROBBIEP2
ROBBIEP3
ROBBIEP4

Key in PIC <keyword> and send to 209.

LOGOS

KYLIEL
KYLIEL1
KYLIEL3
KYLIEL4
ROBBIEL1
ROBBIEL2
ROBBIEL4

Key in LOGO <keyword> and send to 209.

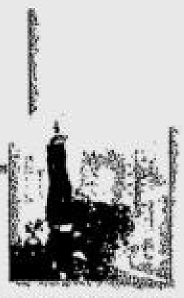
All images and ringtones are P15.00 each. All other text messages are P2.50 each. *Available only for MMS-enabled phones. To activate your MMS function, key in SET MMS and send to 211.

SMART MUSIC LINK

Get a chance to win Nokia 3530s or CDs by Kylie and Robbie!

Simply download Kylie or Robbie logos, picture messages, MMS images, or ringtones which are 10 points each. You can also join the Kylie and Robbie Trivia Game where you'll get three multiple-choice trivia questions each day. Each correct answer earns you 2 points. Everyday, the top two pointers will each win a CD, while the top two pointers at the end of the promo will each win a Nokia 3530.

To play the Kylie & Robbie Trivia Game:	Key in KR and send to 209
To turn the game on/off:	Key in KR <on/off> and send to 209
To check your total points:	Key in KR ENTRIES and send to 209



Come into Kylie's World with the Fever 2002 Special UK Edition with a Bonus UK version CD. Now available!

How does Robbie Williams make you FEEL? Find out on his new album, Escapology. Now available!

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Singapore: *fun city*

Text and photos by Pam Pastor

"LET'S meet again at 1 p.m." the people from Warner told me.

I checked my watch: 11 a.m. I had two hours to kill. I hopped into a cab, went to one mall, shopped, took another cab and jumped to another mall, shopped, had a quick lunch and was back at the hotel by 1 p.m., bogged down by shopping bags.

Safe

This is Singapore. Cabs, albeit a bit pricey, are always accessible. There is hardly any traffic. One feels safe going around alone and the shopping, again, albeit a bit pricey, is excellent.

The operative word is safe.

At the risk of sounding completely unpatriotic, I have to say it was such a relief to be able to breeze into malls without having sticks poked in my bag, to be able to whip out my mobile phone without the fear of getting mugged, to be able to ride cabs without locking the doors, to be able to walk around streets without imagining my lungs turning black from the pollution and go around in solitude minus the paranoia of possible death. Then, again, one has to pay a price for feeling safe. Because in Singapore, almost everything is expensive.

Expensive

A cab ride of one kilometer or less sets you back Singapore $2.40 (around P80) and .10 cents (around P3) for every 200 kilometers or every 30 seconds of waiting. (Believe it or not, you can use a credit card to pay for your fare.)

The more practical and patient people can take the MRT or the numerous buses assigned on specific routes (they are efficient, too, and way cheaper). A McDonald's meal costs around S$7 (around P230). So does a four-slice personal pan pizza at Pizza Hut.

The cheapest food I was able to buy was rotti pratta (S$1.20) from Little India, which I never got around to eating and made some of my things smell like curry-kingdom.

Hi-tech

I got into a cab and heard an emotionless voice say, "Please fasten your seatbelt." I thought it was the driver but the voice was female.

When we reached our destination and the driver pulled over, I heard the voice again. "Please pay four dollars. Did you leave anything behind?" Wow! Their cabs actually talk. When I got back to the hotel, I checked if anything else talked—maybe the fridge or the bathtub—but that was just wishful thinking.

Their traffic lights actually have countdown timers so you'll know exactly how many seconds you have left to cross the street before cars go zooming in your direction.

SIM cards can be bought anywhere—even from 7-elevens. Reloading is quite expensive, though, as they don't have a denomination lower than S$28 (around P925). And you thought P300 was bad, huh?

In the New Asia, one has to pay a price for feeling safe. Almost everything is expensive

Their airport actually has a section called the E-Hub where Internet (you pay S$2 per 15 minutes of use) and Ethernet stations are set up, and where there are computers to be used specifically for downloading mobile tones.

Even Topshop and Topman branches have Internet kiosks that you can use for free for a max of 30 minutes.

Funny

Okay, so maybe it's not the country that's funny, it's us. Our trip to Singapore was peppered with comical experiences that we will tell and retell again and again and again.

One night, I tried calling Tim at his hotel.

"Please connect me to the Swissotel Stamford," I told my hotel operator.

The Swissotel operator picked up. "Can I help you?"

"Hi, please connect me to Tim Yap's room?"

"Sorry, no Tim Yap Su here."

"No, Tim Yap's roooom?" I said again, stressing every syllable.

"No Tim Yap Su here!" she said, sounding annoyed. Then she put the phone down.

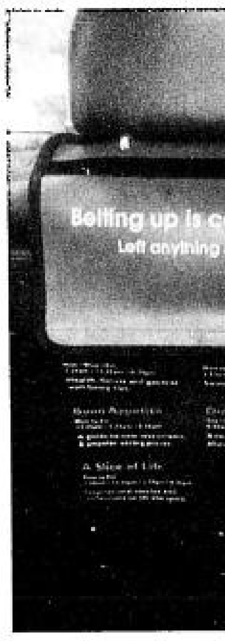
In my confusion, I dialled again and an operator picked up.

"Hi, please connect me to the room of Tim Yap"

"Sorry, what's the name again?"

"Tim Yap?"

"Sorry, he's not registered here."



MY view from the passenger's seat of one of Singapore's talking cabs

"That's impossible. Can you check room 2450?"

"We don't have a room 2450."

I got even more confused. "No, that's impossible. He said he's in room 2450."

The operator sounded mad. "What hotel are you calling? You're talking to your own operator!"

I could do nothing but drop the phone back into its cradle, bury my face into my pillow and chortle in embarrassment.

I wasn't the only one who had problems with the language barrier. The next day, Vanessa Ramirez of Warner Philippines sent me a text message. "Waaah! *Yung* driver *dinadala ako sa* zoo!"

QUICK fix for Internet junkies at the Changi Airport

Apparently, she got a cab from the hotel and told the driver to bring her to Zouk, the venue for Missy Elliott's party where we were all waiting. The driver thought she wanted to see animals and started driving toward the zoo. Vanessa thought he was taking an alternative route but started to wonder why the ride was taking a tad too long as Zouk was only three minutes away from the hotel. Her wonderment grew to panic when she started to see unfamiliar roads and even what looked like a highway. It was only then that she was able to ask the driver to turn back.

Characters

Singapore is home to many interesting characters, including one beefed-up Chinese guy who looked like he came straight out of an animé show. The poor guy was a one-man seafood restaurant who took our orders, served our food, washed the dishes, manned the cash register, cleared tables, gave us the bill and returned the change. No wonder he looks like a bouncer from hell.

One very interesting cab driver was a man called Lim, who, to our surprise, spoke Filipino. "*Kumusta? Anong balita?*" We kept asking him why he knew the language but he refused to say at first. He showed off by popping a tape into his player and started singing along. "Napakasakit, Kuya Eddie." Then he proceeded to explain the song to us. "This man's wife cheated on him. Now he's asking this guy what he should do." Lim had married a Filipina and evidently has a soft spot for the Philippines. He was even familiar with Philippine politics. He gave us tips on where to go and even gave us his home number, asking us to call that night so we could talk to his wife and two daughters.

But it's not home

It was strange that even on the first night, I felt homesick. When I stared at buildings, I could almost see the outlines of Glorietta and Landmark. Everything I saw reminded me of the people back home. How mom would have walked around Chinatown and tried its street food. How Powie would have enjoyed going to all the malls. How my cousin Daniel would have loved to go to all those DVD stores. How Wency would have played video games in the gaming area set up in Topman. How Felice, Chrissie and Kat-Kat would have gone crazy shopping.

I loved Singapore and enjoyed every minute of it. But just as my companions and I discussed, I wouldn't want to live there. The shopping's good, everything's near, there's no traffic and no pollution, but it just seemed lonely. I like being able to stay in bars till 4 or even 5 a.m. I love bubble gum. I like being able to buy a lot of things with just P500. I like going to Quiapo. Heck, I'd probably even miss the jeepneys. They can have their talking cabs. I wouldn't trade Manila for the world. (Not yet anyway.)

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph

Where to shop in Singapore

WHEN you get to Singapore, the seemingly infinite number of malls will doubtless overwhelm you. If you don't know where to start, here's a list that might help kick off your shopping adventure.

These places are worth your time, energy and money. But don't just stick to the list—feel free to find bargain havens of your own.

Malls/Shopping Areas

Lucky Plaza
(304 Orchard Road)

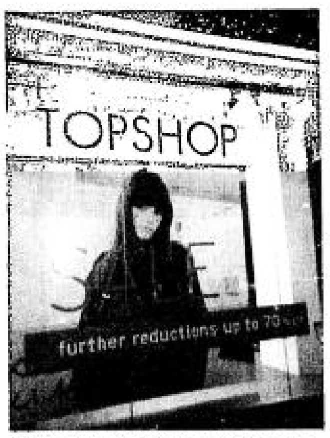
Lucky Plaza is where a lot of Filipinos hang out on Sundays. You can find all kinds of stores here that sell clothes, PX goods, souvenirs and electronics. Believe it or not, Lucky Plaza is also home to the House of Condom, which, as the name suggests, is a funny little sex shop that sells different kinds of naughty toys and all fathomable and unfathomable types of condoms. (A two-inch glow-in-the-dark, anyone?)

Daimaru
(Plaza Singapura, 68 Orchard Road)

This department store is a hub for many different clothing lines. Whether you want to look preppy, classy, casual or hippie, the numerous brands offered by Daimaru will have something to suit your taste.

Suntec City Mall
(3 Temasek Boulevard)

Yup, this was one of the stops in last season's Amazing Race. This gigantic mall will satisfy the needs of any heavy shopper. It is divided into four zones—Galleria, Entertainment Centre, Tropics and the Fountain Terrace. You can find Mango's largest store in Asia in Galleria, along with a lot of other boutiques. The Tropics zone boasts of specialty shops that sell home furnishings and leisure products. You can find the Fountain of Wealth, the world's largest fountain, in the center of Suntec City Mall.



TOPSHOP in Singapore is huge.

Wisma Atria
(435 Orchard Road)

Wisma Atria is my favorite shopping place. One end of this shopping mall is occupied by Isetan, the Japanese department store, which is heaven for any clotheshorse. Wisma Atria is also home to a great mix of popular boutiques including Topshop, Topman, Miss Selfridge, U2, DKNY.

Shops

Borders
(501 Orchard Road)

Borders is a playground for literature, music and film aficionados. There are endless titles of books, DVDs, CDs to choose from.

Match Collection
(With branches in Suntec City, Wisma Atria, Tampines Mall, International Plaza)

Match is another fashion heaven. The good thing about this store is everything is arranged according to color so you know exactly which rack to hit first. And when you find something you really like, you can usually find it in a lot of other colors, too. I fell in love with a knit kaftan top and ended up buying every color.

Muee
(With branches in Plaza Singapura, Bugis Junction, Annex at the Heeren)

If you like trinkets and weird little things, you will go crazy in Muee. They stock up on really nice accessories like large glittery rings, earrings of all kinds and necklaces in every color, little toys and thingamajigs. Their merchandise is a little expensive—according to the sales clerk, they import a lot of their stuff from Japan and the U.S. The store is worth visiting—whether you want to buy or just snoop around.

One.99 Shop
(With branches in Heeren, Great World City, WestMall, Suntec City Mall, Ngee Ann City, Eastpoint Mall, Lucky Plaza, Rivervale Mall, IMM, Novena Square, Marina Square, Tampines Mall)

LUCKY PLAZA, a must-visit for the House of Condom, for when you think you can get lucky

If you're on a tight budget and are just searching for little tokens or *pasalubong* for your loved ones, this is a good place to go to. You can find shelves piled high with all kinds of goodies—for only S$2 each (about P60) There are keychains, notebooks, bags of all sizes, toys, snacks, picture frames, slippers, toiletries, stationery.

This Fashion
(It's everywhere—but my favorite branch is the one in Lucky Plaza.)

This Fashion is warehouse-like in layout. It's a treasure trove for bargain hunters who have the patience to go through racks and racks of clothes and accessories. They have beautiful ponchos, knit tops, skirts, blouses and dresses for surprisingly reasonable prices.

Topshop/Topman
(With branches in Wisma Atria, Plaza Singapura, Seiyu Bugis Junction, Suntec City Mall)

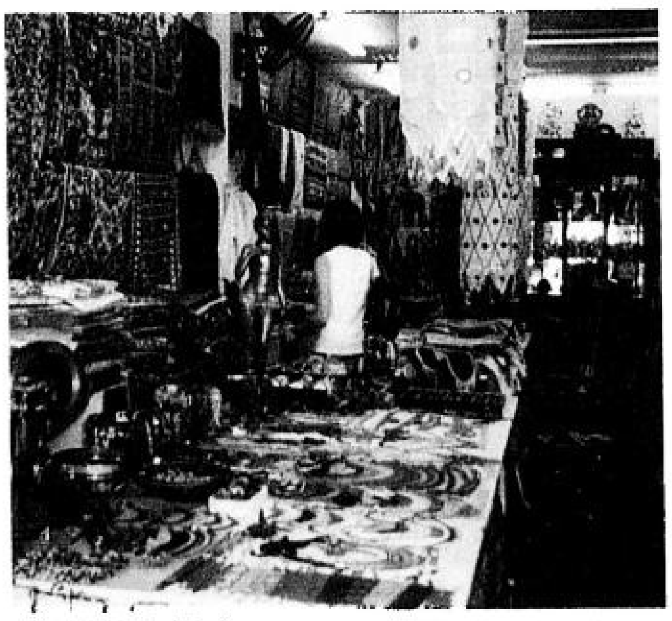
The Topshop and Topman outlets in Singapore are huge and boast of a wide variety of items that include accessories that are not yet available in Manila.

Etc.

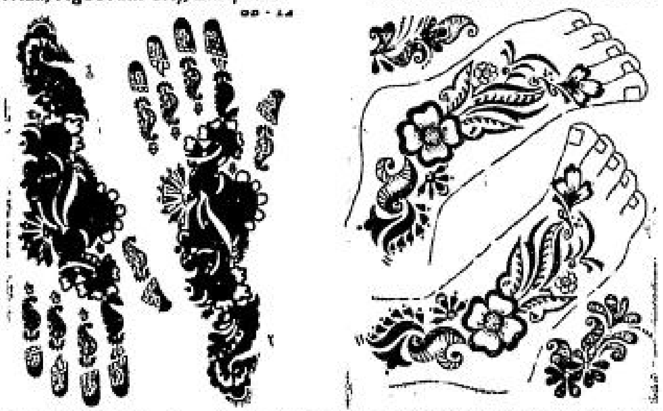
Little India

It looks, feels and even smells like real India. And the shops there sell everything—temporary tattoo sheets, Indian bangles in all imaginable hues, all kinds of accessories, jewelry boxes with intricate designs, saris, brassware, fabrics, kaftans, skirts, bed covers, pillow cases, bags, wood carvings, house décor. Little India is a good place for hagglers. You can exercise your bargaining skills here. Lots of buses can take you to Little India, but you can also ride the MRT.

Pam Pastor

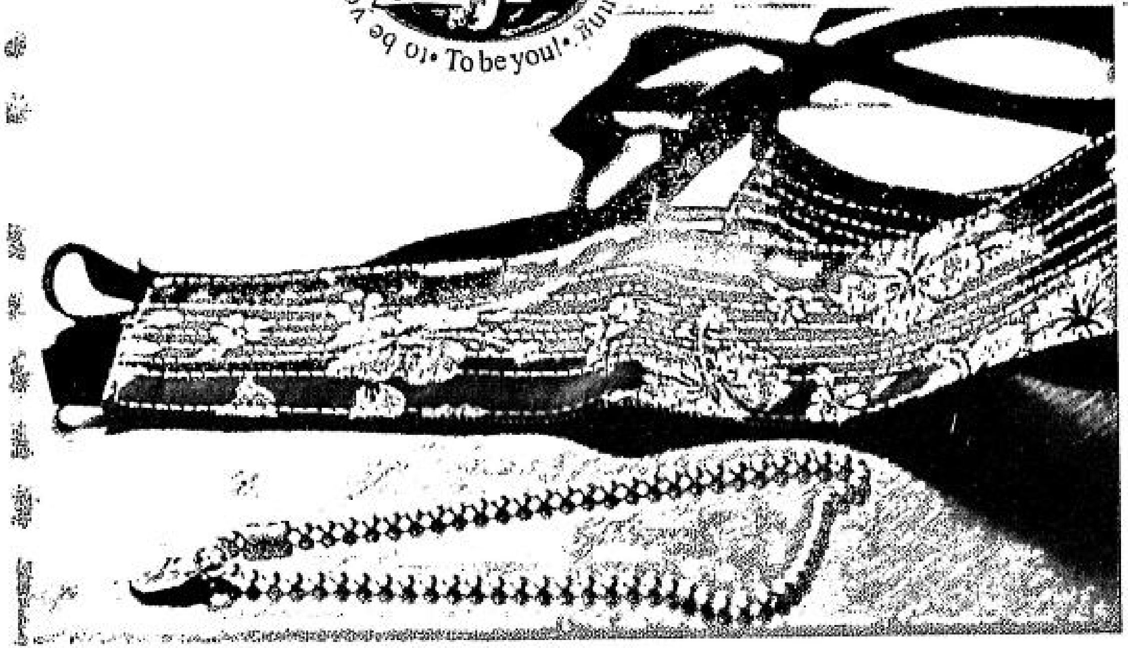


GOODIES in Little India

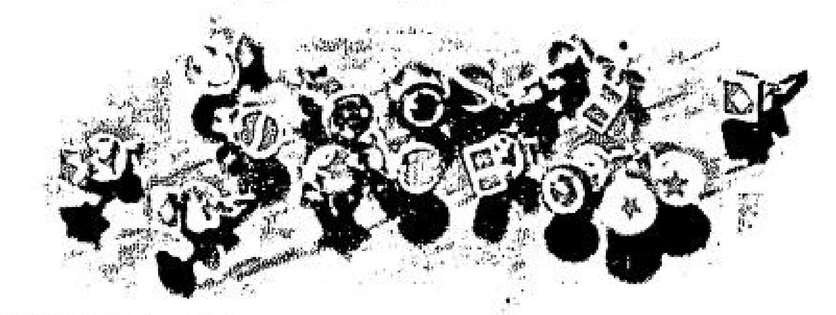


TEMPORARY tattoo sheets from Little India, S$4 each (around P120)

PHOTOS. PAM PASTOR



CUMBERBAND from Topshop and guy's silver necklace with pendant from Topman



TINY earrings from Muee

Shopping tips and tricks

PLEATED [illegible] print skirt from Little India

By Pam Pastor
Photos by Ernie Sarmiento

Shopping in Singapore is a treat—if you have the cash. Yes, the prices may be steep, but keeping your eyes open will reward you with great bargains and precious finds.

Here are a few tips to take the stress out of splurging and make your trip more enjoyable.

1. Before leaving for Singapore, go around Manila. Frequent the malls and take note of the prices of the things you might wish to buy. Visit your favorite stores and look at the stock they have. A lot of the boutiques in Singapore sell exactly the same items the boutiques in Manila do. The same thing applies to electronics. The lowest price I found for Sony Cybershot U which you can buy in Manila for P12,000 is Singapore $350 (around P11,500). That's not a great difference. You wouldn't want to discover that your great find is actually something you can buy in Manila for less, would you?

2. Surf the Internet before you leave Manila. Read up on places that offer the best prices and the best variety of shops. Try to download maps if you can.

3. If you are going to Singapore for leisure (and not squeezing in your shopping between appointments like I did), take the time to study their public transport system. Taking the bus and MRT would surely save you a lot of money. You can use the money for buying *pasalubong* and things that you actually want instead of handing it over to countless cab drivers.

4. Convert, convert, convert. Every time you look at a price tag, automatically convert it to pesos. Doing this will help you realize how much you're really about to spend. If you are math-challenged, bring a calculator (your mobile phone will do). Practice your skills at computing percentages too, as this will help you when you chance upon sales.

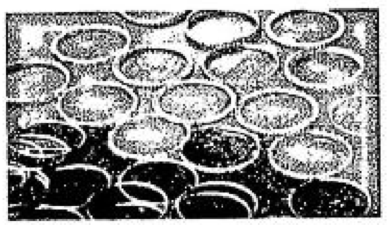
5. Set a budget and stick to it. With the countless malls and shopping areas in Singapore, believe me, you will never run out of things you'll want to buy. You will inevitably find yourself in fitting rooms praying for your items of choice to look bad—even gruesome—on you just so you won't be tempted to buy anything more. There are two operative words here—control and discipline.

6. Explore every place you can—from Chinatown and Little India to Lucky Plaza and the entire stretch of Orchard Road. You never know where you can find excellent bargains.

7. Someone once said, "If you walk into a store and don't fall in love with something within 30 seconds, walk out. You might end up forcing yourself to buy something you don't actually want." I say that if you walk out of a store within 30 seconds, you might miss finding good buys. Don't be afraid to dig through discount bins and sift through racks and racks of clothes. The perfect pair of jeans or the gorgeous knit top you've been wanting all your life might just be waiting for you behind a really ugly jumper.

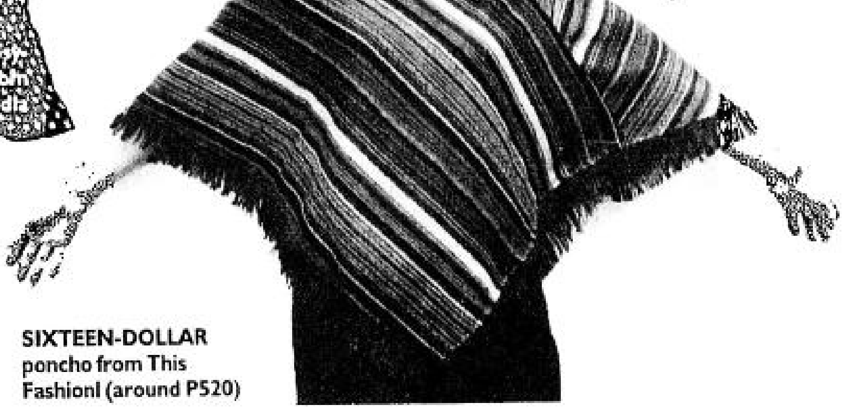
8. Don't be too excited. No matter how worked up you get over the discounts you're getting, breathe and keep your poise. When I was in Match, I was so excited about my purchases I rushed out of the fitting room not realizing that I had forgotten to zip up my jeans. I realized with chagrin that I was paying for my new clothes with my undies in full view.

9. Buy things that you really fall in love with, nothing more, nothing less.



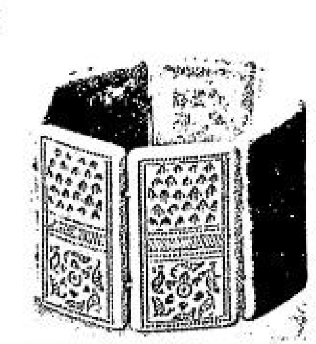
SILVER bangles from Little India

SOUVENIR shirt



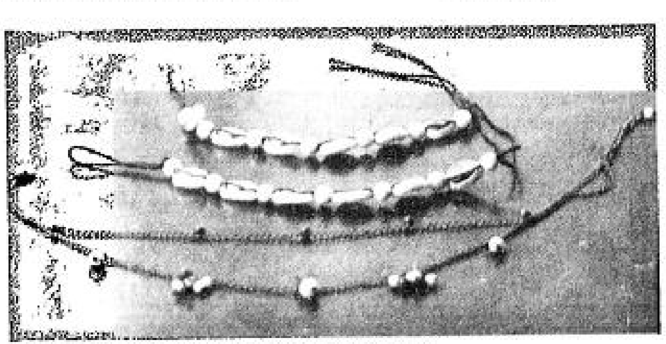
SIXTEEN-DOLLAR poncho from This Fashion! (around P520)

KNIT kaftan top from Match



MAHJONG bracelet from Topshop

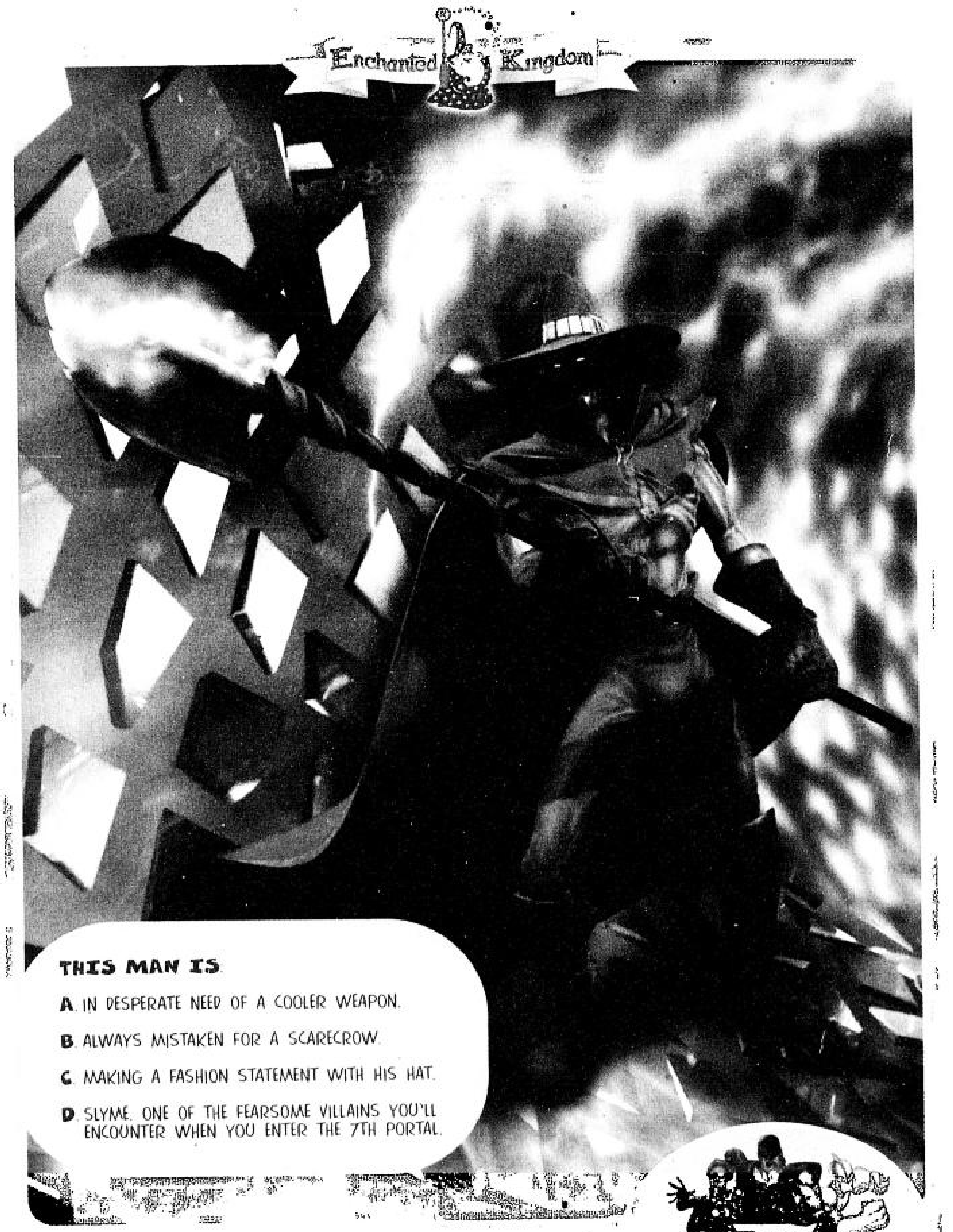
MEN'S bracelets from Topman



MORE accessories from Topshop and Topman

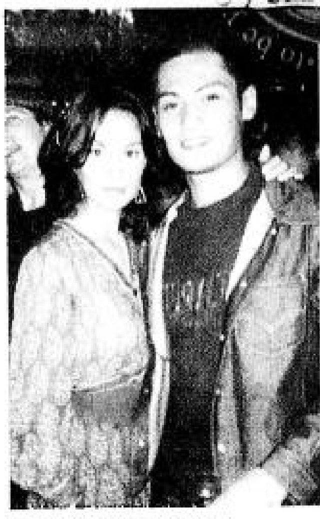
Money Guide

If you have ... (Singapore dollars)	You can buy...
1	a can of coke
1.20	Rotti pratta from Little India
2	a bag of chips
4	a tattoo sheet from Little India
5	a cab ride
7	a McDonald's meal or a personal pan pizza from Pizza Hut
10	a good quality souvenir shirt; a CD single of your favorite artist
15	an accessory from Topshop
20	a top from This Fashion; a CD
30	a jacket or poncho from Match or a pair of shoes; a DVD
50	Topshop jeans on sale
100	a kaftan from Little India
400	a new digital camera


Enchanted Kingdom
THIS MAN IS
A. IN DESPERATE NEED OF A COOLER WEAPON.
B. ALWAYS MISTAKEN FOR A SCARECROW.
C. MAKING A FASHION STATEMENT WITH HIS HAT.
D. SLYME. ONE OF THE FEARSOME VILLAINS YOU'LL ENCOUNTER WHEN YOU ENTER THE 7TH PORTAL.
STAN LEE'S 7TH PORTAL
RIDE THE ACTION ADVENTURE!

Feel what's it like to be a superhero when you enter the 7th Portal - the latest masterpiece from Stan Lee, creator of Spiderman, X-Men, Daredevil and the Hulk. Experience the thrills and spills, only at the Rialto, true believer!

Enter the 7th Portal with the Superhero Seven Bundle! Assemble 7 of your friends and buy 5 Ride-All tickets, get 2 free! Offer good from February 7 to March 30, 2003. Excelsior! Per DTI-Laguna Permit No. S-01-017. Series of 2003
Makati Sales Office: G/F. Tropical Palms Condominium, De la Rosa Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City • Park Address: Enchanted Kingdom, San Lorenzo South, Sta. Rosa, Laguna • Tel. No.: 830-2111 to 16, 843-6073 to 78 • Tickets also available at all Ticketworld outlets: National Bookstore branches • Tower Records (Makati, Alabang) • Robinson's Department Stores (Galleria, Manila)


MODEL'S MODEL. Nadya Hutagalung and Tirso Garcia

PARTY MODE. Cristina Castillo and Peter Bullard

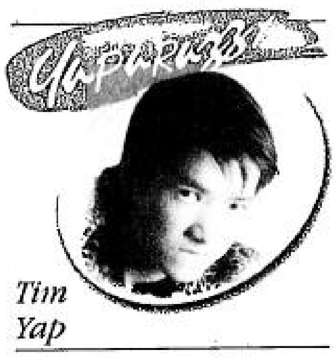
GIORDANO MAN. VJ Utt with spunky date at Indochine

POSH PARTYPHILES. Sigrid Villamil and Vanessa Mayuga

MUSIC PALS. Lizza Nakpil and Igan D' Bayan

YOUTH MEDIA. Jenny Alejandro and Yeng Lim

Singapore *stalking*



Tim Yap

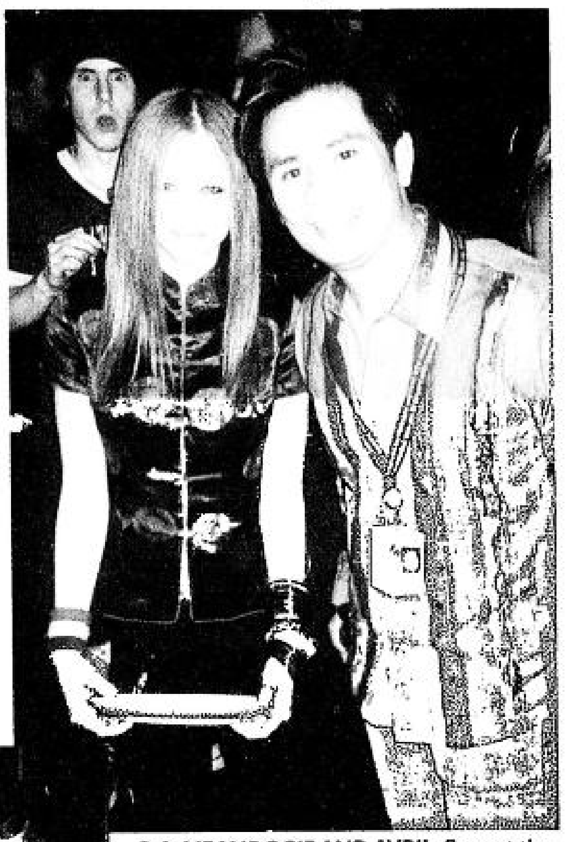
"AREN'T there any party favors here?" asked one hardcore Pinay partyphile, intoxicated when she left the Post bar at the Fullerton hotel, where artists and partyphiles lingered long after the last call for booze. "Hey, if chewing gum is banned here, what more..." I answered.

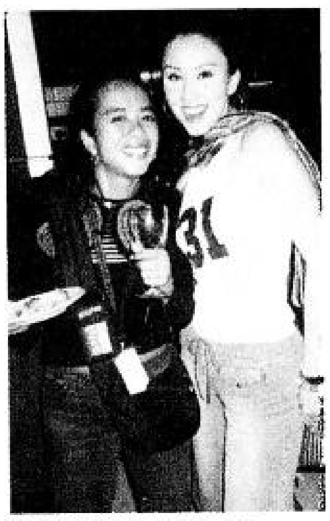
I was hanging out at the posh Post because my Singapore spy tipped me that it was the place where celebrities, music and glitz biz stars would go after rehearsals for the MTV Asia Awards. The Philippine party group came at about 1 a.m., just the right time to party here in Manila. We forgot that Singapore bars closed at 2 a.m., leaving us with just an hour to indulge.

I spotted **Vinci** and **Buwi** of Parokya ni Edgar and told me they hung out with **Missy Elliot** earlier. Since we were late, we were left with her back-up dancers and the Atomic Kittens. We spotted some cuties who said they were with the mosh pit. Oh great, what luck.

"Die Another Day" was playing in my head as I approached Indochine, where the after-awards party was held. It helped that I was wearing a full fencer's outfit (thanks to **Jet Galang**, heartthrob of Sony Music). If not for the strict security measures, it felt right smack home. Why? Everyone—from VJs to international celebrities—was clutching a San Miguel Beer, which sponsored the event Asia-wide. Kudos to our local booze boys!

At the VIP area, I pulled **Ogie Alcasid** aside to have a picture with whom I thought was Missy Elliot. "Can I take your picture?" And she said, "Me, why me?" I thought this was Missy Elliot being humble. So I just clicked away. Later, people approached her as well. "Guys, I am not Missy Elliot!" she screamed when the fans outside started to bug her.


O.A. MEANS OGIE AND AVRIL. Seen at the MTV after- show party, with unknown stalker


LIONESSES. Scho Parpan-Richardson and Belinda Panelo

IN ACTION. Chito of Parokya ni Edgar with VJ Belinda

LIFE THROUGH A LENS. Robbie Williams as photographed by Stalkerazzi

PUMP up the jam, pump it up.

Stalking Robbie

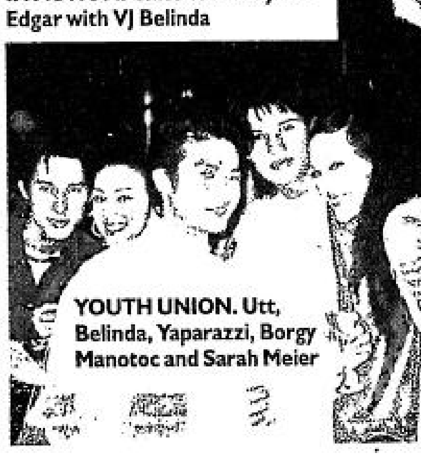
In between sips of champagne, I overheard veejays talking about their contracts, up and comers in the industry and what not. I spotted über fab former VJ **Nadya Hutagalung** with **Tirso Garcia**, a former model in Manila who is now a hot DJ in Singapore. He is not alone making waves in the Lion City. So many Pinoys are making their mark in sizzling Singapore.

Aside from MTV favorite **Donita Rose**, the other Pinoys carving their own niche in Singapore are **Scho Parpan-Richardson**, who is in the media; **Jenny Alejandro**, who works at Channel News Asia; **Cristina Castillo**, who handles the talent division of MTV Singapore; and **Brent Chua**, top Asian model who's of Filipino-Chinese descent. **Philip Cu-Unjieng** was also there to document the stories of Pinoy achievers in Singapore for People Asia.

At the party's peak, I kept heading to the washroom, thanks to an overactive bladder. While I was in the urinals, I was surprised to see so many bodyguards surrounding me. I looked to my side and there I saw **Robbie Williams**. I asked to have a photo with him, as I always do, but he politely declined. "How about if I take your photo?" I insisted. "Oh please, not tonight, I look bad," he requested, holding my arm. I still followed him.

While running down the stairs, bodyguards and all, I grabbed my trusted little camera, and while all his aides were shooing everyone away, I managed to take a snap shot of Robbie. Click! Then I ran away, feeling like **Ron Gallela** after taking a shot of **Jackie O.**

Elsewhere in the party, VJ **Belinda Panelo** was chit-chatting with co-VJ **Utt**, **Sarah Meier** and **Borgy Manotoc** were with **Anggun**, while KC Montero chose to stay and hobnob with local favorites Parokya ni Edgar and Slapshock.


YOUTH UNION. Utt, Belinda, Yaparazzi, Borgy Manotoc and Sarah Meier

This week's hot stuff

The pre-Valentine rush is within us, partyphiles. Book in advance so as not to get caught up in the whirlwind of things. The hottest ticket is bound to be the Boyz II Men concert sponsored by Jag. Join the 2bU! contest for free tickets.

This week is also heavy with parties, events and launches. Tonight, Fidel at Maria Orosa hosts a "Shag-a-delic" party in celebration of their InFidelite' series, with **Manolet Dario** as spinmaster. Tomorrow, Levi's will launch its Type 1 jeans at Tavern on the Square. In the evening, Café Adriatico in Malate opens its renovated doors to the public. Cartier has its "romantic rouge" event at Restaurant 12, while Store Super—A Global Cafe at the new Greenbelt, will see guests go around the world for its official opening.

"City formal," said the invite for Olive's grand opening party, also happening on Thursday night. Expect the city's most hardcore party animals to come out that night. Come Friday, its **Cher Calvin**'s last hurrah as Industry (KC Montero's club in Filmore, Makati) hosts a big farewell party for her. Too much partying? Head over to Boracay with friends or loved ones to relax and take a break before the Valentine week starts.

Enjoy the season of hearts, dear partyphiles.

SHAGGY-DELIC!

PHOTOS: TIM YAP

NOKIA partyphile on the loose!

MTV PHILIPPINES IN SINGAPORE. Rod Nepomuceno, Lito Banaag, Charley Bautista, Kathy Alejar and Michelle Sario

INDUSTRY man KC Montero

SEVENTEEN SEXY. Mariel Chua with Matchbox 20

BEER GARDEN. DJ Lisa Cunico explores her Pinoy roots

---

48 hours of Singapore nightlife

From page C8

www.hendrixbar.com

Velvet Underground
17 Jiak Kim St.; tel. 6738-2988

Bars and pubs

Altivo
Beside Mount Faber Cable Car Station; tel. 6270-8855/8223
www.altivo.com.sg

Aphrodisiac Bar & Restaurant
47A and 47B Club St.; tel. 6325-8529 (bar) and 6325-8816 (restaurant)

Balaclava
1 Raffles Boulevard #01-01B Suntec City Convention Centre; tel. 6339-1600

BAR
11 Unity St. #01-23/24 Robertson Walk; tel. 6738-1318
www.b-a-r.net

Bar at the Box
5 Gemmill Lane; tel. 6327-1276

Barcelona
11 Unity St. #01-30/31 Robertson Walk; tel. 6235-3456

Front Page
18 Mohamad Sultan Road, tel. 6835-1693

Brix
10 Scotts Road Grand Hyatt #B1-00; tel. 6738-1234

Celavie Bar
7 Magazine Road, Central Mall tel. 6536-4566

Devils Bar
1 Tanglin Road #02-01 Orchard Parade Hotel; tel. 6732-0819

Ice-Cold-Beer
9 Emerald Hill; tel. 6732-0818
www.b-a-r.net

Harry's Bar
28 Boat Quay; tel. 6538-3029
www.harrys-bar.com.sg

Harry's @ The Esplanade
1 Esplanade Drive, #01-05/07. The Esplanade Mall
www.harrys-bar.com.sg

Milk Bar
76 Robertson Quay
#01-09 Gallery Evason Hotel
tel. 6836-4431

No.5
5 Emerald Hill; tel. 6732-0818
www.b-a-r.net

Nirvana Bar Javanese
46-6A Ann Siang Hill
tel. 6323-0393

Maracas Cocina Latina
30 Victoria St. #01-15/15A, Chijmes; tel. 6336-9151
www.maracasbar.com

Metz
76 Robertson Quay, The Gallery Hotel #01-02-11
tel. 6887-2490
www.metz-bar.com

Shidong Bar
7 Club St.; tel. 6323-5677

Provignage, The Wine Cave
30 Robertson Quay #01-12/13 Riverside View; tel. 6834 1490

Que Pasa
7 Emerald Hill; tel. 6235-6626
www. b-a-r.net

Siam Supper Club
207 River Valley Rd.; tel. 6732-0938; www.wongsans.com/ssc/index.htm

SIX
Lobby, 6 Battery Road CapitaLand Building; tel. 6543-1380

Stella Bar
9 Emerald Hill Road; tel. 6735-9929; www.b-a-r.net

Sullivan's Bar & Restaurant
262 River Valley Road; tel. 6737-8690; www.partyatsullivans.com

Sunset Bay
60 Siloso Beach Walk Sentosa; tel. 6275-1053
www.sunsetbay.com.sg

The Pool Room
11 Unity Street #01-24 Robertson Walk; tel. 6735-2008
www.emeraldhillgroup.com

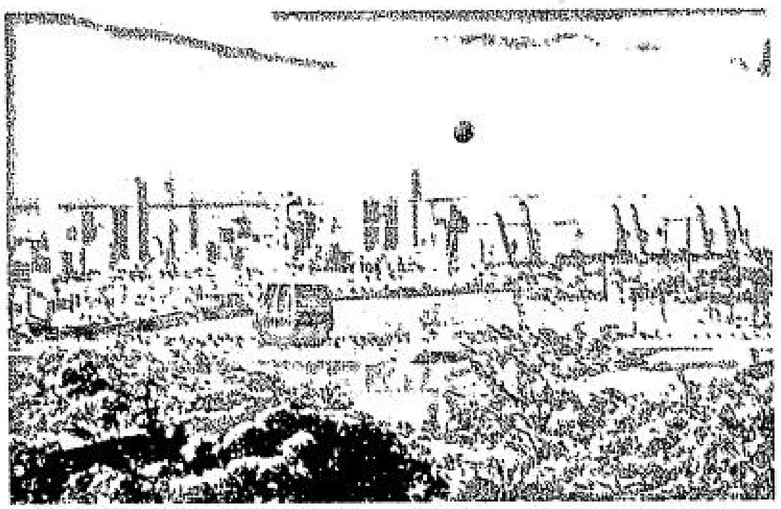
Tivoli Beer Bar
11 Unity St #01-24 Robertson Walk; tel. 6738-1318
www.b-a-r.net

Union Square
165 Tanjong Pagar Rd #02-05, The Amara Hotel; tel. 6224-6116

Wala Wala Café Bar
31 Lorong Mambong, Holland Village; tel. 6462-4288

Other things to do in the city that slings

IF you're not one for clubbing and shopping, don't fret. There are so many other things you can do in Singapore.



SINGAPORE cable car

Tours

Take the Singapore River Boat Tour. You can choose between an authentic bumboat or a glass top boat tour. Tours take place between 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. daily.

If water is not your thing, you can go for the Trishaw tour. A trishaw is a three-wheeled vehicle just for two passengers. This can be very romantic, as long as you don't fall over.

If there are more than two of you, the trolley tour would be ideal. You can take the unlimited ride package and get on and get off at any point of the journey at your liking.

Singapore cable car

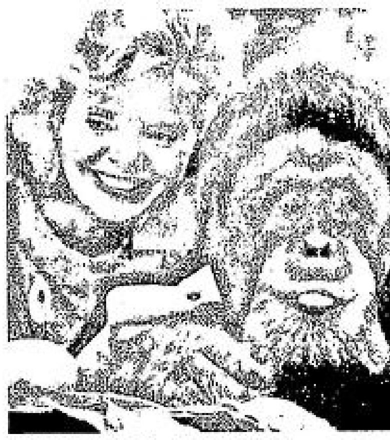
Ride the Singapore cable car. It starts from Mount Fabet, supposedly "Singapore's most tourist visited hill," and ends at Sentosa, the famous resort island. This is your chance to view Singapore from a different perspective. The cable car operates every day from 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Singapore Zoological Gardens

The Zoological Gardens boasts of having 2,000 animals under their care. Visitors can look at the animals in enclosures that are very similar to their natural habitat. The zoo, like the rest of the country, is clean. It's open from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

Night Safari

Singapore's newest offer is the Night Safari where you can observe nocturnal creatures such as the Cape buffalo, blue sheep, striped hyena, golden jackal and rhinoceros. You can choose between walking or taking a tram ride around. Either way, you can observe the animals without disturbing them. If the experience makes you hungry, you can enjoy dinner by moonlight at the Entrance Plaza.



SINGAPORE Zoological Gardens

Escape Theme Park

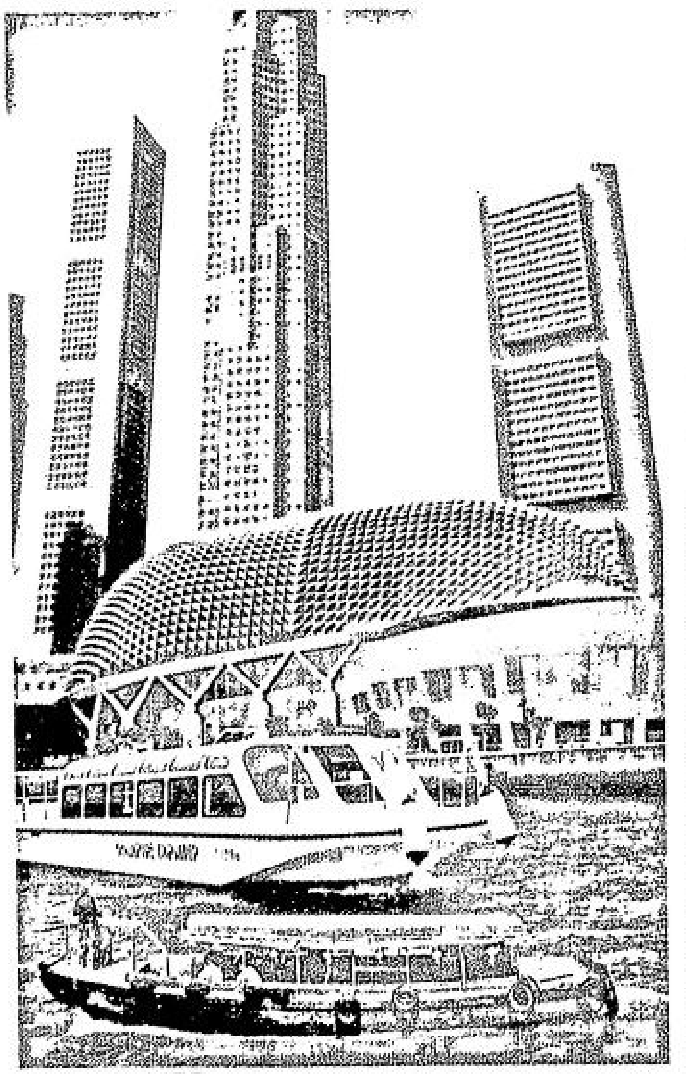
Thrill-seekers will enjoy a day at the Escape Theme Park. They have crazy breathtaking rides like the Revolution ("the ultimate 360-degree motion whirlwind"), the Cadbury Inverter, the Pirate Ship, the Barnstormer, Wet & Wild, Panasonic Alpha 8, Daytona Go-Kart, etc. The park is closed on Tuesdays and open Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Museums

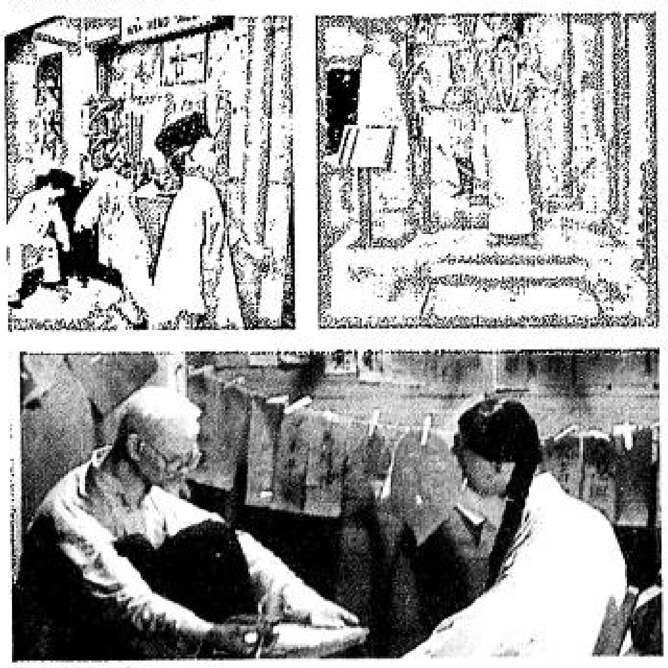
If you enjoy visiting museums, Singapore is a good place to be. There's the History Museum, the Art Museum, the Philatelic Museum and Asian Civilizations Museum.

Sentosa

Sentosa, the island resort, has a lot of things to offer. This 500-hectare playground boasts of beaches, golf courses and a lot of other venues for fun, relaxation and culture immersion. The athletic can enjoy water games and golf. Nature lovers will love to see the Dolphin Lagoon, the Underwater World of Singapore, Volcano Land, Butterfly Park and Insect Kingdom. Those who have a passion for history can visit Fort Siloso. You may also view Singapore's historical and cultural development through a series of lifelike wax creations that use special effects and animatronics in the Images of Singapore. *PP*



THE RIVERBOAT Tour



IMAGES of Singapore

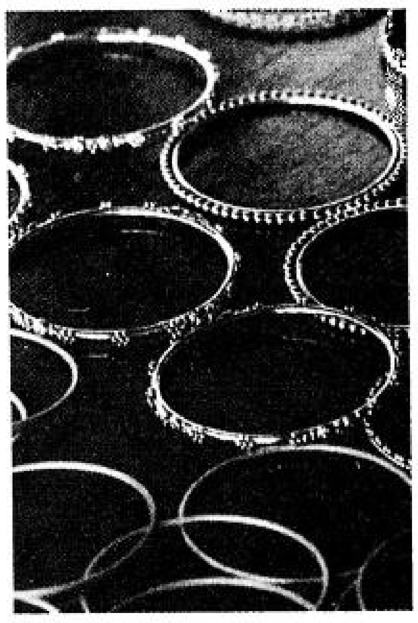
2BU! TOUR MEMENTO PROMO

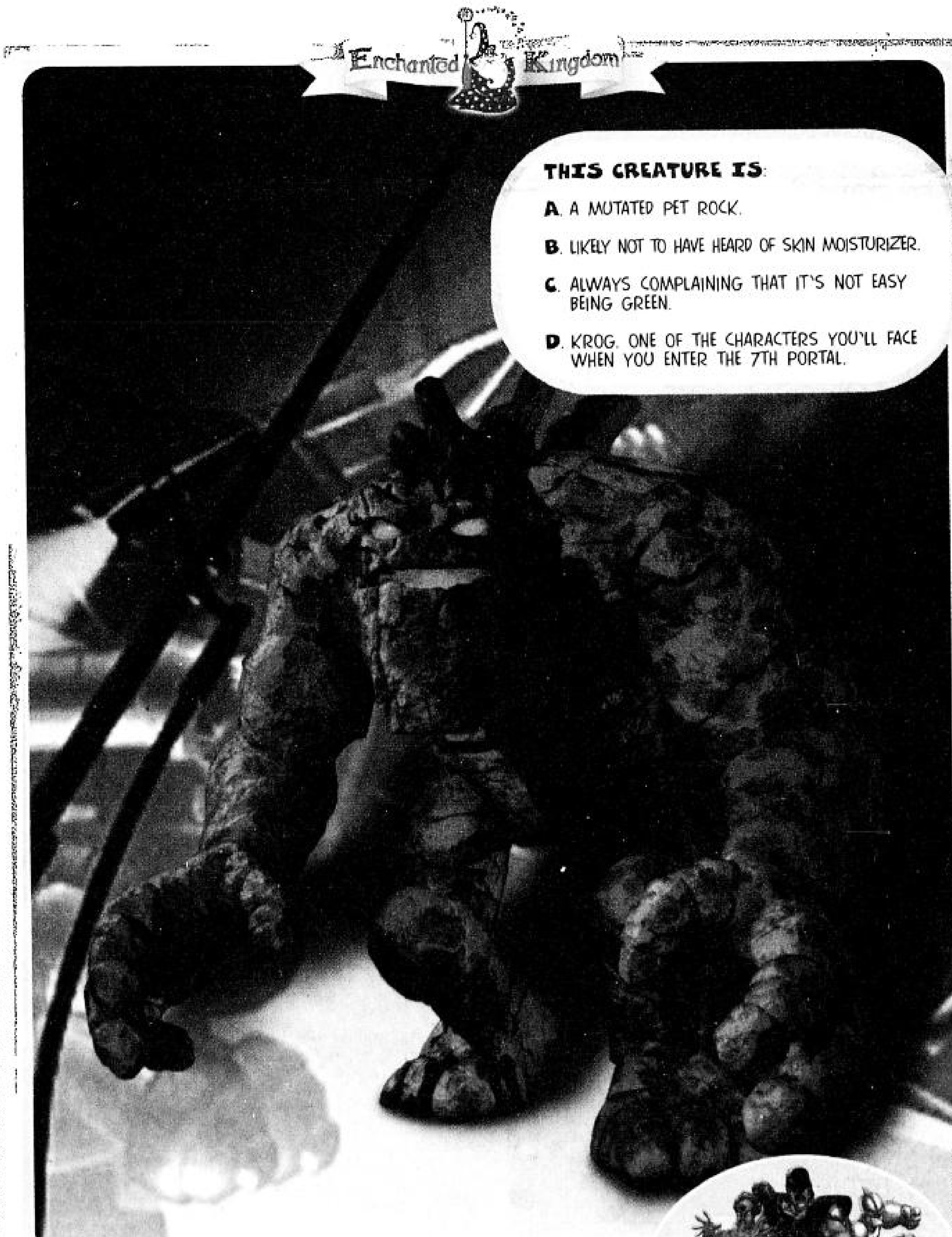
If you can go to Singapore, what will you buy?

IF you want to win a goodie bag of Singapore-bought items, answer the question above. Let your imagination go wild. Be as creative as you can. Then send in your answers along with your name, age, school or work, contact numbers and photo to contest2bU@inquirer.com.ph or 2bU! Singapore Contest Philippine Daily Inquirer Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City.

The goodie bag includes a Singapore souvenir shirt, bag, accessories from Topman, Muee and Little India, a scarf and stuffed animal.

To qualify, entries must be complete and submitted on or before Feb. 17, 12 noon.





Enchanted Kingdom

THIS CREATURE IS:

A. A MUTATED PET ROCK.

B. LIKELY NOT TO HAVE HEARD OF SKIN MOISTURIZER.

C. ALWAYS COMPLAINING THAT IT'S NOT EASY BEING GREEN.

D. KROG. ONE OF THE CHARACTERS YOU'LL FACE WHEN YOU ENTER THE 7TH PORTAL.

Feel what's it like to be a superhero when you enter the 7th Portal - the latest masterpiece from Stan Lee, creator of Spiderman, X-Men, Daredevil and the Hulk. Experience the thrills and spills, only at the Rialto, true believer!

Enter the 7th Portal with the Superhero Seven Bundle! Assemble 7 of your friends and buy 5 Ride-All tickets, get 2 free! Offer good from February 7 to March 30, 2003. Excelsior! Per DTI-Laguna Permit No S-01-017, Series of 2003

PEPSI

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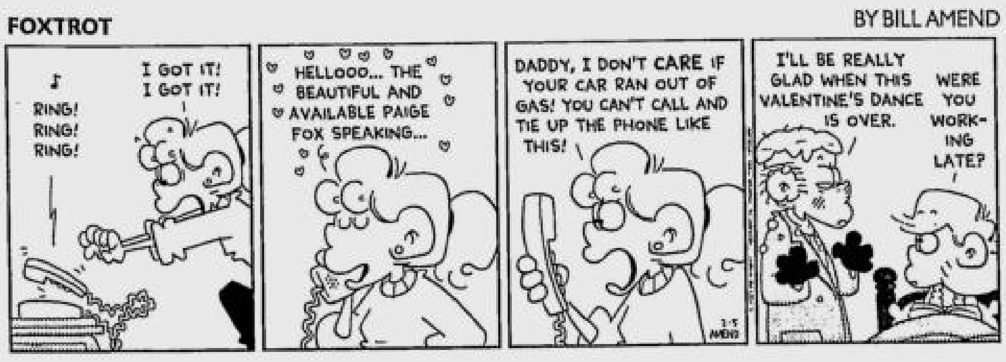
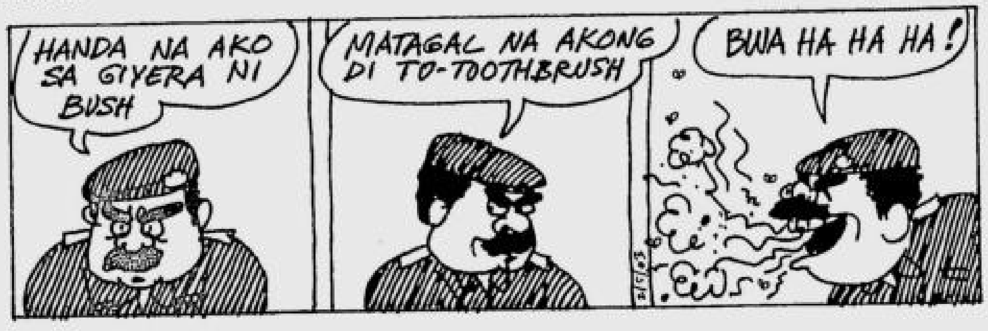
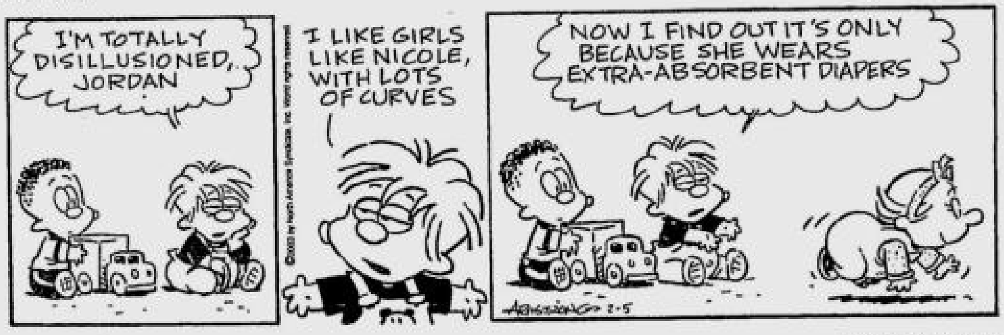
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


RING! RING! RING!
I GOT IT! I GOT IT!
HELLOOO... THE BEAUTIFUL AND AVAILABLE PAIGE FOX SPEAKING...
DADDY, I DON'T CARE IF YOUR CAR RAN OUT OF GAS! YOU CAN'T CALL AND TIE UP THE PHONE LIKE THIS!
2-5 AMEND
I'LL BE REALLY GLAD WHEN THIS VALENTINE'S DANCE IS OVER.
WERE YOU WORKING LATE?

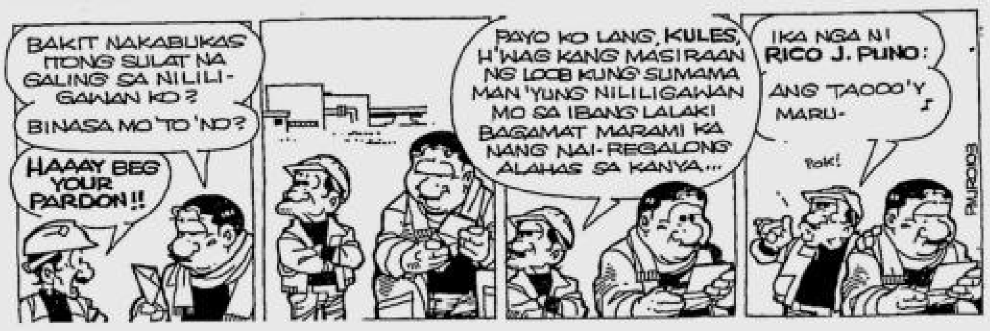
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


HANDA NA AKO SA GIYERA NI BUSH
MATAGAL NA AKONG DI TO-TOOTHBRUSH
BWA HA HA HA!

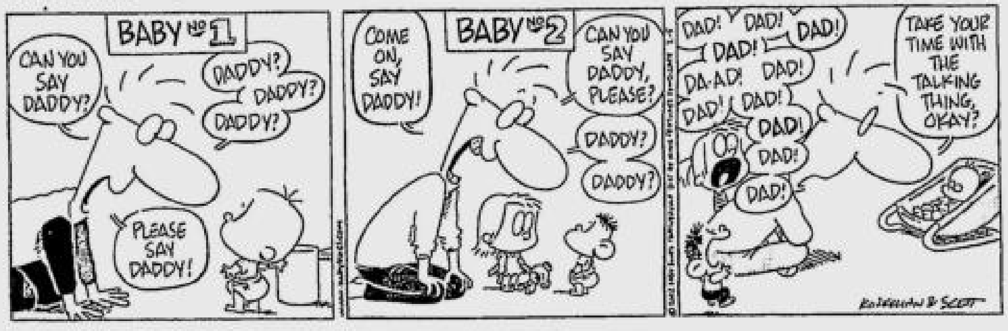
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


I'M TOTALLY DISILLUSIONED, JORDAN
I LIKE GIRLS LIKE NICOLE, WITH LOTS OF CURVES
NOW I FIND OUT IT'S ONLY BECAUSE SHE WEARS EXTRA-ABSORBENT DIAPERS
ARMSTRONG 2-5

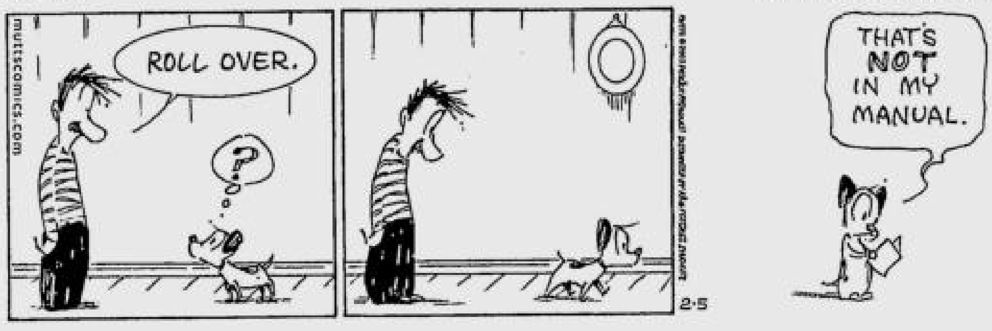
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


BAKIT NAKABUKAS ITONG SULAT NA GALING SA NILILIGAWAN KO?
BINASA MO 'TO 'NO?
HAAAY BEG YOUR PARDON!!
PAYO KO LANG, KULES, H'WAG KANG MASIRAAN NG LOOB KUNG SUMAMA MAN 'YUNG NILILIGAWAN MO SA IBANG LALAKI BAGAMAT MARAMI KA NANG NAI-REGALONG ALAHAS SA KANYA...
IKA NGA NI RICO J. PUNO:
ANG TAOOO'Y MARU-
Pok!
PMJR0103

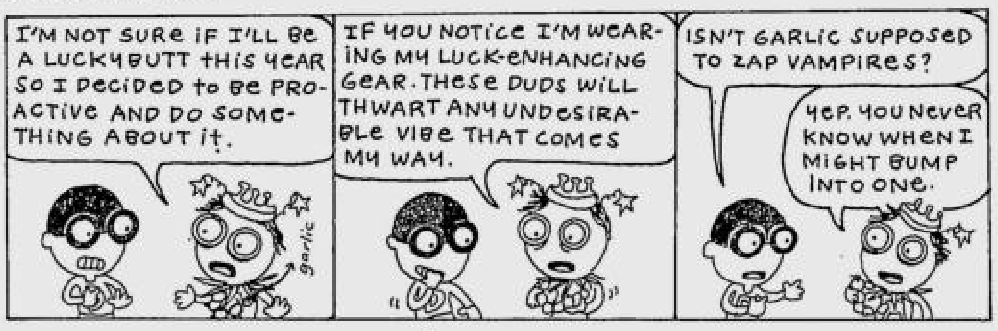
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


BABY No 1
CAN YOU SAY DADDY?
DADDY? DADDY? DADDY?
PLEASE SAY DADDY!
BABY No 2
COME ON, SAY DADDY!
CAN YOU SAY DADDY, PLEASE?
DADDY? DADDY?
DAD! DAD! DAD! DAD! DA-AD! DAD! DAD! DAD! DAD! DAD! DAD!
TAKE YOUR TIME WITH THE TALKING THING, OKAY?
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

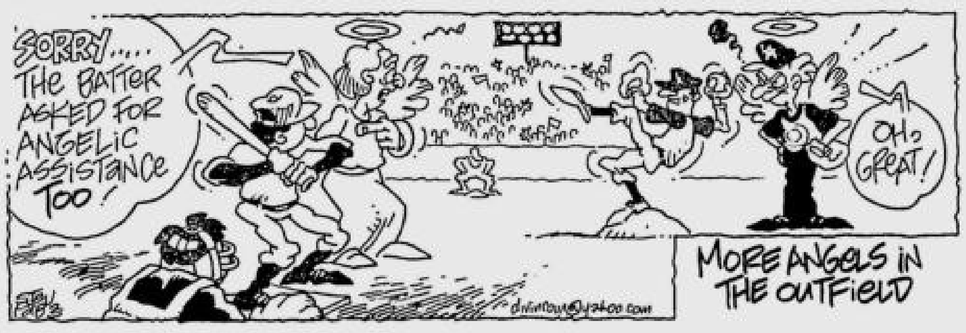
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


muttscomics.com
ROLL OVER.
?
THAT'S NOT IN MY MANUAL.
2-5

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I'M NOT SURE IF I'LL BE A LUCKYBUTT THIS YEAR SO I DECIDED TO BE PRO-ACTIVE AND DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.
garlic
IF YOU NOTICE I'M WEARING MY LUCK-ENHANCING GEAR. THESE DUDS WILL THWART ANY UNDESIRABLE VIBE THAT COMES MY WAY.
ISN'T GARLIC SUPPOSED TO ZAP VAMPIRES?
YEP. YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN I MIGHT BUMP INTO ONE.

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


SORRY..... THE BATTER ASKED FOR ANGELIC ASSISTANCE TOO!
OH, GREAT!
MORE ANGELS IN THE OUTFIELD
divintoon@yahoo.com

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Barbara Hershey, Andrew Greeley, Al Kooper, Jennifer Jason Leigh

Happy Birthday: Put personal issues aside and focus on professional and financial gains this year. Once you clear up these matters you will have no trouble dealing with the rest of your life. Let your confidence lead you. Your numbers are 3, 16, 28, 31, 37, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your mind will be on making your financial situation better. This is an ideal day to take care of an older relative's problems.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Say what you think and you will gain approval. Romantic connections can be made if you are single. The odds are in your favor.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Make decisions today that will promote changes in your personal situation and your home life. You may not be able to please everyone in the process.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Expand your horizons. Don't be reluctant to accept an invitation that may take you a far distance. It will be stimulating and inspiring, and may affect the way you do things.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Start taking better care of yourself. If you take precautions and do things properly, you will be happy with your results. The choice is yours.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't let your sensitivity affect your personal relationship. Take note of what's being said, but don't take it to heart. Honesty, patience and the ability to listen to others will help you sort through any issues that arise.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't overdo it today. Implement an exercise program that includes some form of relaxation, such as yoga. Don't let others take advantage of you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take another look at some of your creative ideas from the past. The time is right to resurrect something. The satisfaction will be rejuvenating.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't let others cost you money. Don't make promises to help someone because you feel sorry for them. Inexpensive, minor alterations can satisfy many of the issues at home.

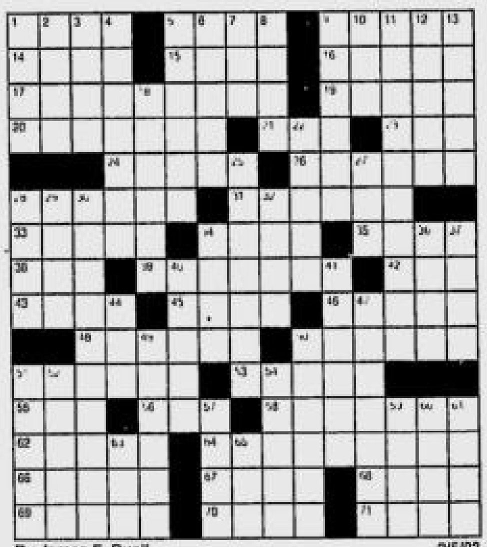
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You've been all work and no play for so long that you have forgotten about the finer things in life. A romantic relationship can grow into something special if you are attentive.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can use past experiences to make better choices in the future, but don't hold on to something that is no longer good for you. Consider a slight modification to an old idea and it might get off the ground.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): This is a time of metamorphosis, so give yourself a chance to become the butterfly. Satisfy your own needs before trying to satisfy those around you.

Birthday Baby: You will be sensitive toward others but hard on yourself, always looking for ways to improve. You will take life seriously and will try your hardest to do what's best for everyone around you.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By James E. Buell
Edgewater, FL

2/5/03

ACROSS
1 Cradle call
5 LP flaw
9 Hemispherical roofs
14 Nuncupative
15 Salsa dipper
16 First name of a plane
17 Casino cast of a kind
19 Admit
20 Neighbor of Ethiopia
21 __ kwon do
23 Choose (to)
24 Tall and lean
26 Hi-fi's successor
28 Revolves around
31 Hold in high regard
33 __ Jaw, Sask.
34 Two of a kind
35 Bread purchase
38 Well-suited
39 Finch cousin
42 Springsteen's birthplace?
43 Fish catchers
45 Month of Sundays
46 Fall flower
48 Eavesdrop
50 Novelist Greene
51 Go-betweens
53 "Mack the Knife" singer
55 Moody or Silver
56 Hand-woven tapestry
58 Boston suburb
62 Sculptor of organic shapes
64 Deadpan look
66 Slalom turns
67 Smooth comparative
68 Kettle covers
69 Achievements
70 Bullring cheers
71 Village People hit

DOWN
1 Velvety plant
2 Florence river
3 Lady's address
4 Acid neutralizers
5 Big mugs
6 Whitewater vessel
7 Winter hazard
8 Washington daily
9 Take out
10 Undivided
11 Chatterbox
12 Bolt to hitch
13 __ Domingo
18 Thrills
22 Jetson's dog
25 Day 365?
27 Moray
28 Muscat sultanate
29 Clue weapon
30 North Atlantic dolphin
32 British knights
34 Book increment
36 Out of port
37 MacDonald's home
40 Soft touch
41 More cautious
44 Immoral deed
47 Bloodsucking pest
49 Underscore
50 Frat boys
51 Packing a rod
52 Gander's mate
54 Twistable joint
57 Lhasa follower
59 Corey of "Murphy's Romance"
60 "Back in Black" rockers
61 Tableland
63 Burned by the sun
65 Tanker's cargo

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

R	I	P	S	■	S	Y	R	U	P	■	L	A	N	A
O	R	E	O	■	A	R	E	N	A	■	A	V	O	N
B	O	W	L	O	F	S	O	U	P	■	M	A	T	T
E	N	S	U	R	E	■	■	M	A	R	I	T	A	L
■	■	■	B	E	R	M	S	■	■	E	N	A	T	E
J	A	I	L	S	■	C	U	P	B	E	A	R	E	R
I	D	L	E	■	M	C	B	R	I	D	E	■	■	■
G	A	I	■	L	O	A	■	I	N	S	■	M	E	T
■	■	■	C	A	S	I	N	O	S	■	A	B	L	E
C	A	N	O	P	E	N	E	R	■	D	R	A	F	T
A	C	U	T	E	■	■	T	Y	P	E	O	■	■	■
B	A	T	T	L	E	R	■	■	A	B	U	S	E	S
A	C	M	E	■	B	U	C	K	E	T	S	E	A	T
L	I	E	R	■	B	L	U	E	S	■	A	R	T	Y
S	A	G	S	■	S	E	D	G	E	■	L	A	S	E

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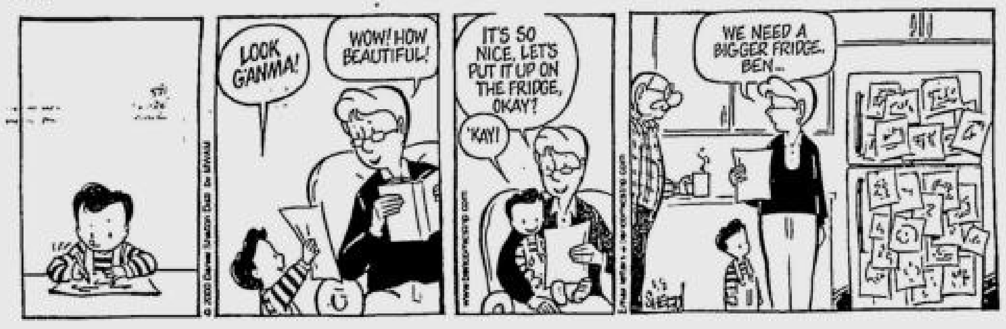
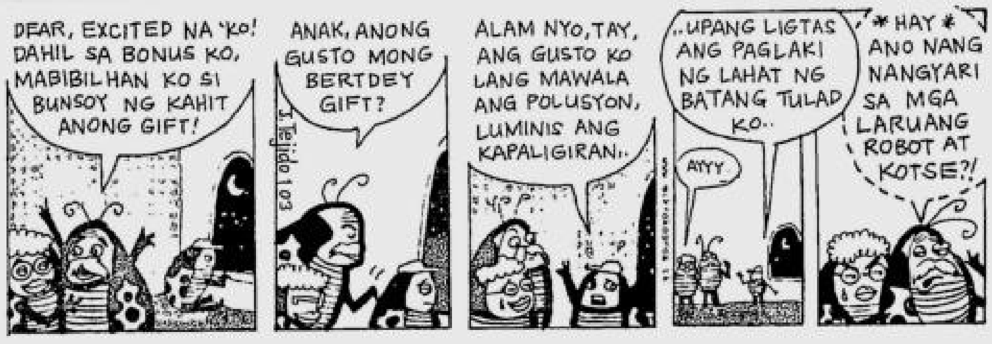
2/4/03

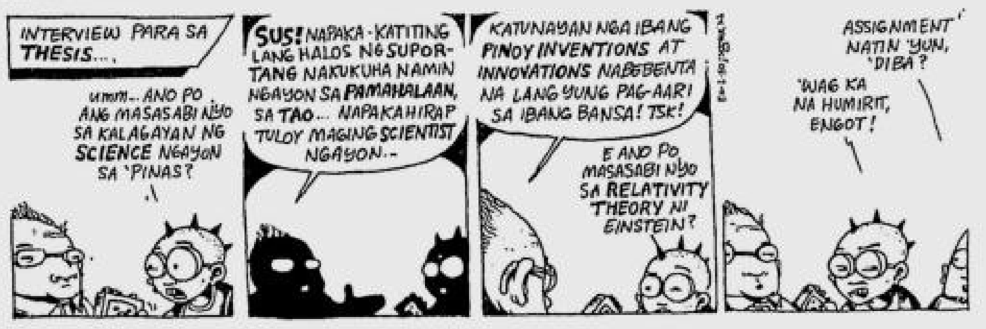
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


LOOK GANMA!
WOW! HOW BEAUTIFUL!
IT'S SO NICE, LET'S PUT IT UP ON THE FRIDGE, OKAY?
'KAY!
WE NEED A BIGGER FRIDGE, BEN...

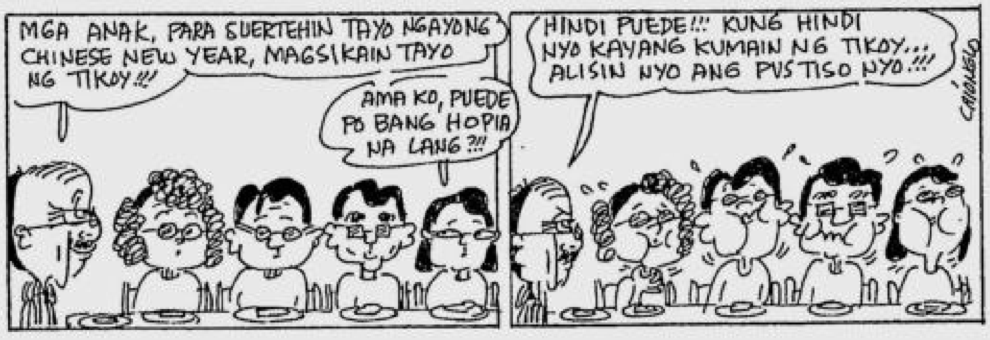
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


DEAR, EXCITED NA 'KO! DAHIL SA BONUS KO, MABIBILHAN KO SI BUNSOY NG KAHIT ANONG GIFT!
J. Tejido 1.03
ANAK, ANONG GUSTO MONG BERTDEY GIFT?
ALAM NYO, TAY, ANG GUSTO KO LANG MAWALA ANG POLUSYON, LUMINIS ANG KAPALIGIRAN..
..UPANG LIGTAS ANG PAGLAKI NG LAHAT NG BATANG TULAD KO..
AYYY
* HAY * ANO NANG NANGYARI SA MGA LARUANG ROBOT AT KOTSE?!

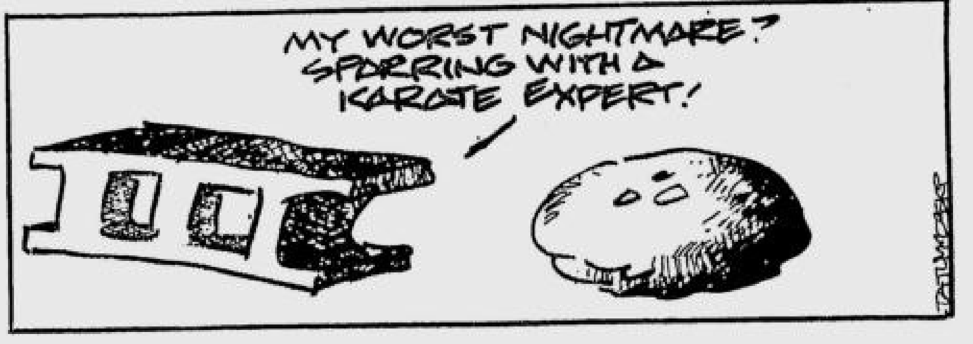
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


INTERVIEW PARA SA THESIS...
umm.. ANO PO ANG MASASABI NYO SA KALAGAYAN NG SCIENCE NGAYON SA 'PINAS?
SUS! NAPAKA-KATITING LANG HALOS NG SUPORTANG NAKUKUHA NAMIN NGAYON SA PAMAHALAAN, SA TAO... NAPAKAHIRAP TULOY MAGING SCIENTIST NGAYON..
KATUNAYAN NGA IBANG PINOY INVENTIONS AT INNOVATIONS NABEBENTA NA LANG YUNG PAG-AARI SA IBANG BANSA! TSK!
E ANO PO MASASABI NYO SA RELATIVITY THEORY NI EINSTEIN?
ASSIGNMENT NATIN 'YUN, 'DIBA?
'WAG KA NA HUMIRIT, ENGOT!

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MGA ANAK, PARA SUERTEHIN TAYO NGAYONG CHINESE NEW YEAR, MAGSIKAIN TAYO NG TIKOY!!!
AMA KO, PUEDE PO BANG HOPIA NA LANG?!!
HINDI PUEDE!!! KUNG HINDI NYO KAYANG KUMAIN NG TIKOY... ALISIN NYO ANG PUSTISO NYO!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


MY WORST NIGHTMARE? SPARRING WITH A KARATE EXPERT!

BRENT CHUA

Asian male supermodel is a Filipino

BED HEAD
power trip

By Tim Yap

WE are used to success stories of Filipina models making it big elsewhere in the world. But one night, I was browsing through a Malaysian fashion magazine and it read, "The Philippine's best import to Singapore is male supermodel Brent Chua."

The name sounded so familiar! Then I found out why. This guy was once my seatmate in grade school.

I remember him telling me back then (okay, way back then) that he was going to be a model. Yeah, right, I thought to myself then.

He comes from a very conservative Filipino-Chinese background. The family is the distributor of Makita power tools. He could have easily joined the family business and made a living out of it, but he chose not to.

"I wanted to be different," he said when we met up in an Orchard Road watering hole recently. "I have four brothers who can take care of that. I wanted something else for myself."

After more than a decade, I bumped into him through his local agency, Cal Carrie's Philippines, while I was on my way to the Lifestyle Christmas party at My Cinema. He was on his way back to Singapore for more shoots and modeling assignments with Diva Models, a top modeling agency in Singapore. And this was in the middle of the holiday season.

Brent, who stands 6"1' and possesses that long, lean model physique, has been based in Singapore for three years now. There he studied at the Canadian International School and the Singapore Hotel Association Training and Education Center, where he finished his hospitality management degree.

Chameleon looks

One night, while partying at the hip spot Zouk, he was spotted by fashion director Rizal Ahyar, who booked him for shows and introduced him to the agents around Sing town. For two years, he has been on the top billing for runway and print jobs at the Lion City.

Brent knows all the Pinoy models who hop by Singapore. Sometimes he acts as guide to first-timers who try their luck on the Asian modeling scene.

"I think my looks are ordinary, but I can transform into anything they want me to be," he said.

While browsing through his portfolio, I saw that Brent, indeed, could morph into 1,001 looks—from an androgynous nymph in one shot to cyber-savvy in another to corporate casual in the next, and little boy lost in yet another.

He has traveled extensively around the region with his jobs, from Kuala Lumpur to Hong Kong to Taiwan to Indonesia to Bangkok and back, and was last seen on the Fashion Week catwalk at the Glorietta in Makati.

He just did the Asian campaign for TIGI Bedhead, and another for DBS Bank and Dockers. Buy any Singapore men's magazine and you'll find him in countless fashion editorials. His list of runway shows sounds like fashion heaven: Giorgio Armani, Paul Smith, Jil Sander, Ermenegildo Zegna, Cartier, Baume & Mercier, Helmut Lang.

Secret of success

For a fashion show, a regular model in Singapore gets S$250-S$300 (that's about P9,000) for a few hours of work, and for print and commercials they get more. That's why models can afford to work full-time in that part of Asia.

Why don't some Filipino models make it big overseas? I asked him while sipping my Singapore sling.

"Some are not daring enough," he replied. "Unlike me, I dare to tread on another place and explore the market. Just go for it, really."

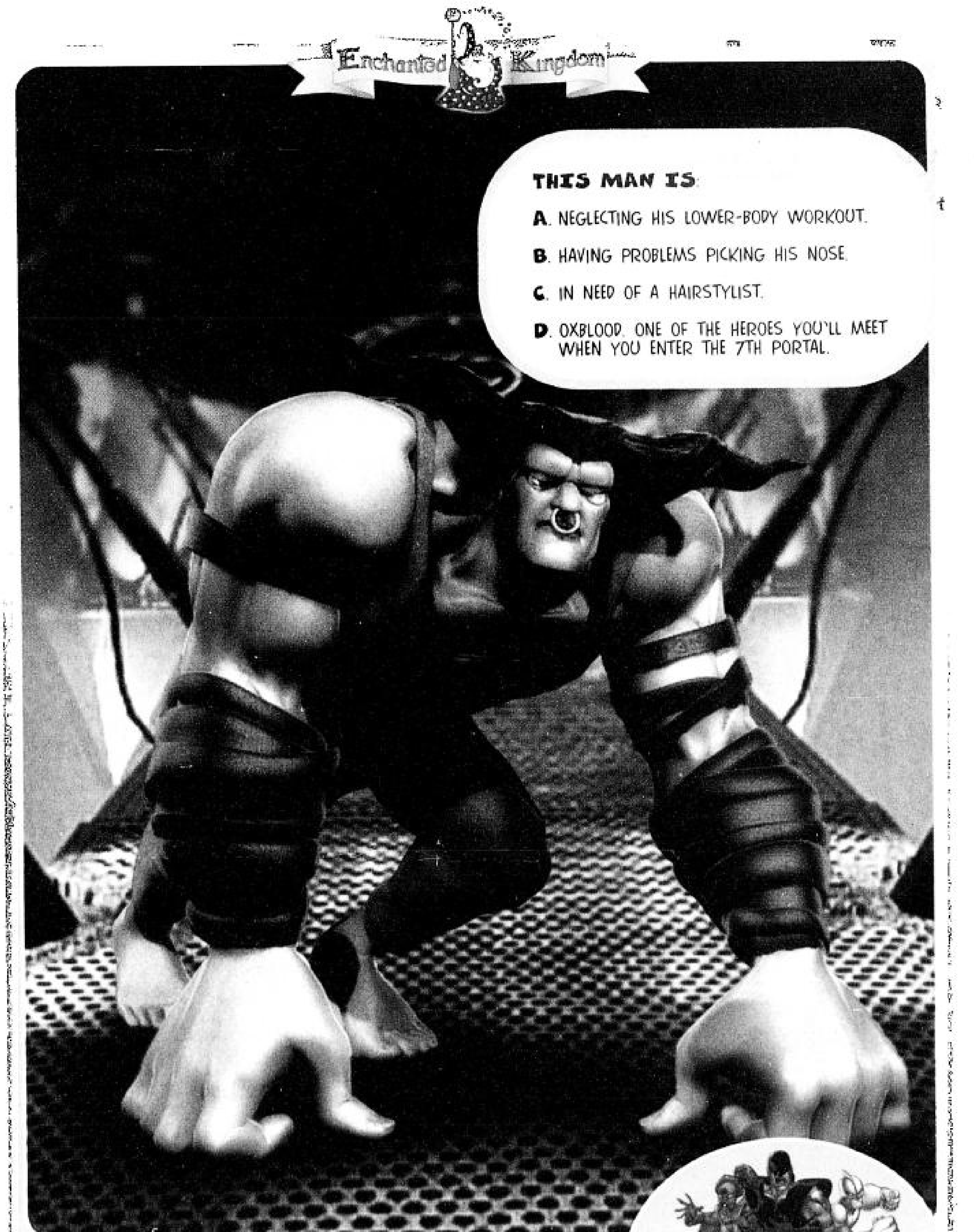
He sees himself in the long term, even in an industry with such a short attention span as modeling.

"The market for men lasts longer," he said. "As long as I'm earning and getting jobs, I'll do it."

He attributes his success more to his attitude than his looks. "I'm very friendly and frank. I don't beat around the bush."

One afternoon stroll with him around Orchard Road was enough proof. Everywhere we went, people, from store managers to boutique owners to attendants, would recognize him. And he would joke around with them, as if they were classmates in high school.

For aspiring models who want to make it big, this down-to-earth Asian supermodel has this to say: "Just be yourself. Dont pretend to be somebody else. Same thing as anybody would advise anyone."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48 hours of Singapore nightlife

Text and photos by Tim Yap

SO you think Singapore is all about not chewing gum and fines for anything and everything? Fine. But, hey, why don't you grab a Singapore sling or a Maï Tai and head over to the Lion City's clubs, bars and pubs. We have put together the Singapore nightlife list of 48 hot and happening clubs, bars and pubs for your partying pleasure. Although you'll be crawling back to your bed by 3 a.m. (and in some cases, even 2 a.m.), you'll find that there is so much cosmopolitan color in their hip hotspots, from Mohamed Sultan to Tanjong Pagar, and everything is a cab ride away. So, if you're ready, hop on with us and let's party!

Clubs

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Basement Marriot Hotel 320 Orchard Road; tel. 6831-4656
www.barnoneasia.com

Boom Boom Room
130-132 Amoy St., Far East Square
tel. 6435-0030

Centro
One Fullerton; tel. 6220-2288
www.centro360.com

China Black
Pacific Plaza Penthouse, 9 Scotts Rd Floor 12; tel. 6734-7677

dbl O
11 Unity Street #02-20 Robertson Walk
tel. 6735-2008; www.dbl-o.com

Eastside
207 River Valley #01-51/52 UE Square; tel. 6235-6418

Embassy
8 Raffles Avenue #01-13F Esplanade Mall; tel. 6835-7555
www.embassy entertainment.com.sg

Indigo
25 Mohamed Sultan Road

Liquid Room
76 Robertson Quay #01-05
Gallery Evason Hotel; tel. 6333-8117
www.liquidroom.com.sg

Madam Wong's II
5 Magazine Road # 01-01/02/03
Central Mall; tel. 6557-0828

Milieu
180 Orchard Road, Peranakan Place (above Alley Bar); tel. 6738-1000

Illusion
33 Mohamed Sultan Road #01-03
tel. 6734-8153 www.orangespore.com

Planet Paradigm
190 Clemenceau Avenue #06-01/27
Singapore Shopping Centre
tel. 6338-3805

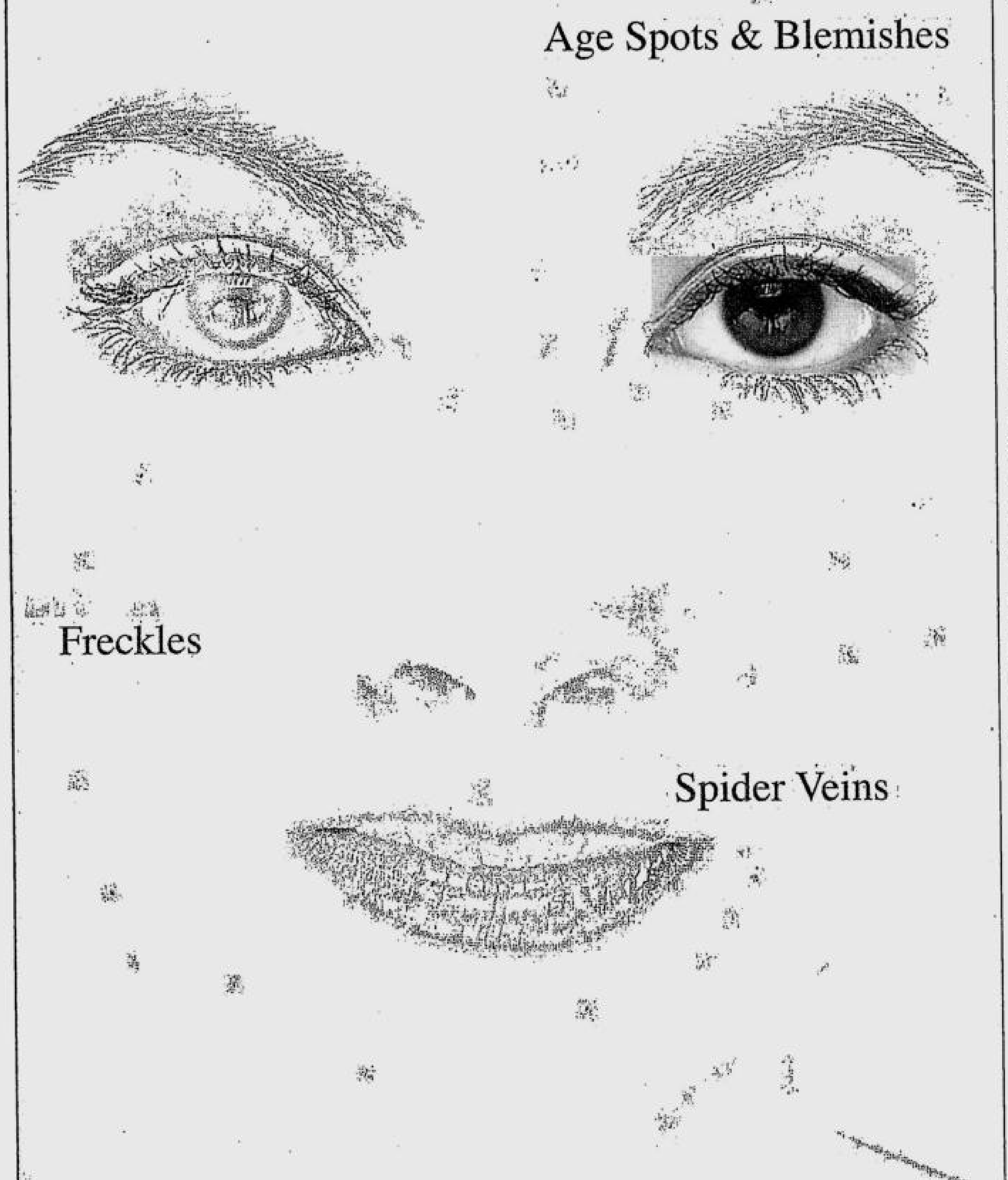
Phuture
17 Jiak Kim Street; tel. 6738-2988
www.zoukclub.com

Zouk
17 Jiak Kim Street; tel. 6738-2988
www.zoukclub.com

Tha Wu Bar
11 Mohamed Sultan Road
tel. 6735-6209/9619

48 HOURS/ C4

AND YOU THOUGHT SINGAPORE WAS TAME? The sizzling scene at Zouk



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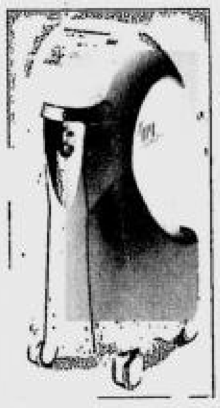
815-3121	687-2197	372-6634	717-0076	809-9583	243-8602	920-7992	860-2663/64	233-7633/35
815-3123	631-3007 • 631-3045	410-3709 • 410-3710		850-4577	243-9895	920-8064		

MON. - ~~FRI. (8 AM~~ - 7 PM) / SAT. (8 AM - 5 PM)



Picture-Perfect Skin in a New Light!

Now, picture-perfect skin can be yours for real! With the latest technological breakthrough - IPL Photorejuvenation - a non-invasive treatment that erases skin damage without disruption of the skin's surface, hence, virtually no downtime.

Picture-Perfect Treatment
IPL is the latest non-invasive treatment, which uses a broad spectrum of light to treat dark spots, freckles, unsightly spider veins, rosacea and other blemishes. Using the Intense Pulsed Light technology, it erases skin damage on the face, neck, back, chest, hands, and virtually anywhere that sun damage shows. Women all over the world are really impressed with IPL because it can simultaneously treat a wide range of skin concerns with less to virtually no downtime, not to mention the amazing results.

Facial Care Centre's Dr. Isabelita Joya-Juliano says, "IPL's amazing results include: better skin tone, reduced blotchiness, pigmentations and broken blood vessels, smoother surface texture, and a more youthful-looking skin."

Dr. Ariel Torres, who has undergone the IPL treatment programme himself attests, "You can actually see the difference right after the first treatment. Even if you've had it just once. Meaning for every treatment, there's really visible improvement."

How does it work?
It works by transmitting light through a small, flat glass handpiece, which is gently placed over the skin. IPL emits light over many wavelengths, allowing the light to penetrate to all the levels of the skin where abnormal, easily dilated vessels can be found. Because of this unique nature of emission, IPL can find even the tiniest of vessels, some are packed so densely as to defy individual identity.

How is the treatment performed?
"The procedure is performed by applying a very thin film of cooling gel on the area to be treated, then the smooth glass surface of the IPL handpiece is gently applied to the skin so it glides easily and smoothly as gentle pulses of light are emitted," says Dr. Joya-Juliano.

How many treatments are needed?
"According to clinical studies and our personal experience, usually, around 5 treatments are enough," says Dr. Joya-Juliano. After that, you can have booster treatments: every 3-4 months if you're the outdoorsy-type or every 6-8 months if you don't get as much sun exposure." She further adds, "A series of treatments is necessary to provide gradual improvement and long-term effect eradicating all age spots. It's just like the principle of taking antibiotics. You have to take it for 7 days or else some remaining bacteria will multiply again."

Is it painful?
For Dr. Torres, "Pain is not a problem. The therapists performing the treatment should be well-trained and really know what they're doing, like those who did my treatments at the Facial Care Centres.

According to Dr. Joya-Juliano, "There are no undesirable side effects if properly done by well-trained doctors/therapists. Since we have a highly-trained staff who are all duly licensed and registered, you can be sure that the treatment is performed to your utmost satisfaction."

She further adds, "IPL has virtually no downtime because it protects the upper skin layers so you are still presentable even after the treatment. It can also be combined with other treatments for maximum effect."

IPL Photorejuvenation gives you the benefits of chemical peels or other types of laser resurfacing/rejuvenation procedures, without the blisters, burns and long recovery time that usually go with them. It improves both the superficial and deeper skin layers and rejuvenates the skin while at the same time delivering beneficial thermal energy to deeper skin tissues. It provides excellent long-term results and high satisfaction.

Picture-Perfect Satisfaction
Many satisfied clients have reported a reduction in age spots, freckles, and other skin discoloration. Most women who lead active and busy lifestyles are happy with the fact that aside from the visible improvement in their skin, they experience relatively no downtime. This means that one can actually go to work on the same day as treatment, as if nothing happened at all!

One really satisfied client, Dr. Torres, has this to say: "I'm an avid golfer so I'm very much exposed to the sun. That's how I had freckles. I've tried every whitening product you can possibly think of: whitening cream, whitening lotion, sunblock, scrub, I even bought this thing from Hong Kong that you're supposed to drink to lighten your skin...nothing! It lightens up your skin for a while but you can't expose yourself to the sun anymore. And for avid players like me, that's totally unthinkable! So when I tried IPL, I was really impressed. Just after the first treatment, there were already visible, dramatic results! IPL is really the only treatment that worked for me."

Need we say more?

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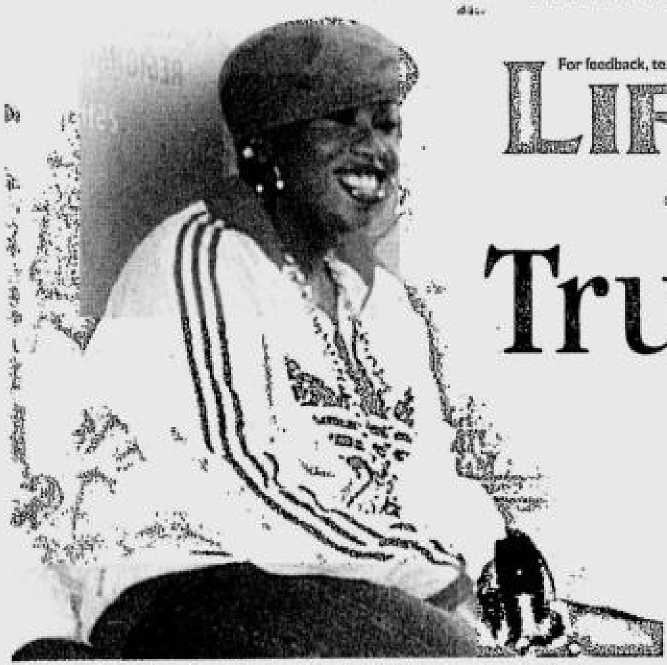

"THE BEST thing about being Missy Elliot is I can chew gum in Singapore."

Text and photos by Pam Pastor

ON TELEVISION, Missy Elliott is larger than life.

Yes, Missy, she who has been called a hip-hop genius countless times and has worked with big names in the music industry, including Mariah Carey, Puff Daddy, Li'l Kim, Foxy Brown, Whitney Houston, Aaliyah, TLC, Beyonce Knowles, Jay Z, Ja Rule and Janet Jackson. She whose trio of albums: "Supa Dupa Fly" (1997), "Da Real World" (1999), "Miss E... So Addictive" (2001) have redefined hip-hop. She with the unforgettable music videos. She who creates songs like "Get Ur Freak On" and "Work It" that you just can't get out of your head. She whose longtime partnership with Timbaland has made major changes in the hip-hop community. She whose own label, Gold Mind Inc., has given breaks to so many new talents. She whose newest record, "Under Construction," aims to bring people back to old school hip-hop, not without imparting a very important message that she realized after the tragedy of 9/11 and the untimely passing of Aaliyah and Lisa "Left Eye" Lopes—that life is too short.

More girl than goddess

In person, Missy Elliott looks more like a little girl who just wants to have fun rather than the goddess that a lot of people make her to be. But one cannot deny her power. She walks into a room and it just lights up. Her name is called out and people—even the most indifferent ones—scream and holler for her. She yells, "Wassup y'all!" and the cheers that she gets in response make people think she just called out a cure for cancer. Yes, even in person, Missy Elliott is larger than life. But she acts like she doesn't know it.

That afternoon, journalists from all over Asia-Pacific filled up Singapore's Zouk for Missy Elliott's press conference which was hosted by KC Montero. Fans lined up outside the venue in the early afternoon in anticipation of the hip-hop party Missy was throwing after the conference. The wait was worth it. High energy filled the club as Missy and her dancers performed live and break dancers from all over Asia had a showdown. (You should be pleased to know that

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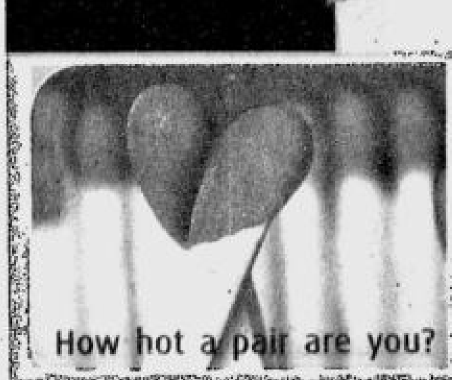
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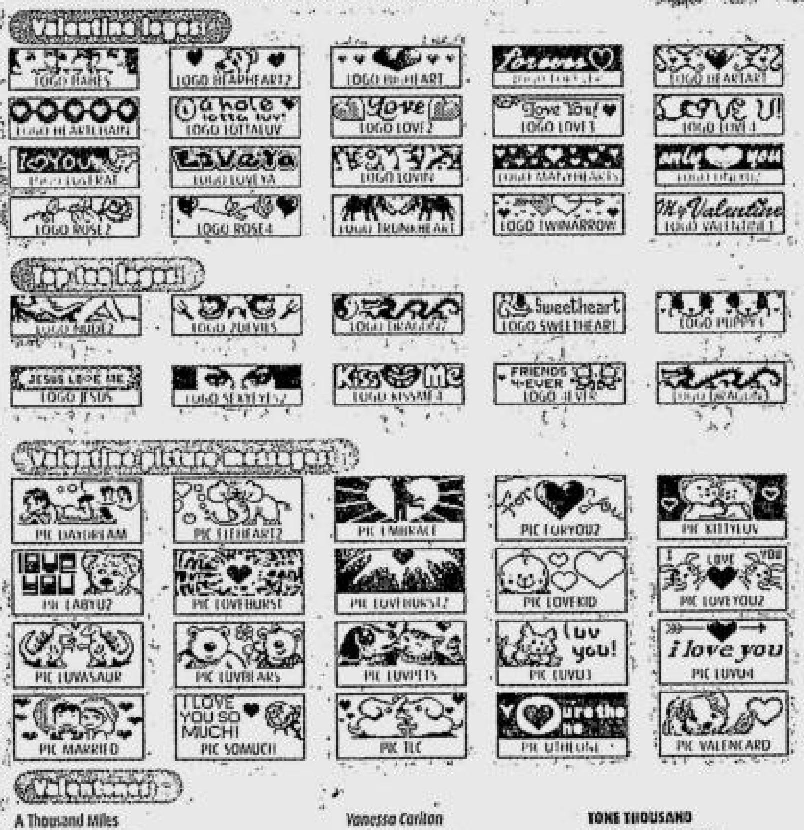

Valentunes

A Thousand Miles	Vanessa Carlton	TONE THOUSAND
Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw	Regine Velasquez	TONE KAILANGAN2
Be My Lady	Martin Nievera	TONE BMYLADY
I'm With You	Avril Lavigne	TONE IMWITHU
Harana	Parokya Ni Edgar	TONE HARANA
I Will Be Here	Gary Valenciano	TONE IWILLBE
Pagdating Ng Panahon	Aiza Seguerra	TONE PAGDATING
Iris	Googoo Dolls	TONE IRIS
It Might Be You	Stephen Bishop	TONE MYTBU
Fallin	Alicia Keys	TONE FALLIN

Top ten ring tones

Build Me Up, Buttercup	Sound Alike	TONE BUTTERCUP
Bakit Papa	Sexbomb	TONE BAKITPAPA
Next In Line	Afterimage	TONE NXTINLINE
Dilemma	Nelly	TONE DILEMMA
Spiderman	Movie Theme	TONE SPIDERMAN
Kahit Kailan	South Border	TONE KAHITKLAN
Ain't It Funny	Jennifer Lopez	TONE AINTITFUN
The Real Slim Shady	Eminem	TONE SLIMSHADY
Forevermore	Side A	TONE 4EVERMORE
Tell Me	Side A	TONE TELLME

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2. Send to 288.
3. Save upon receiving logo, picture message, or ring tone.

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1. FLAMES IAN PEGGY Type in FLAMES <Name1> <Name2> Ex. FLAMES IAN PEGGY
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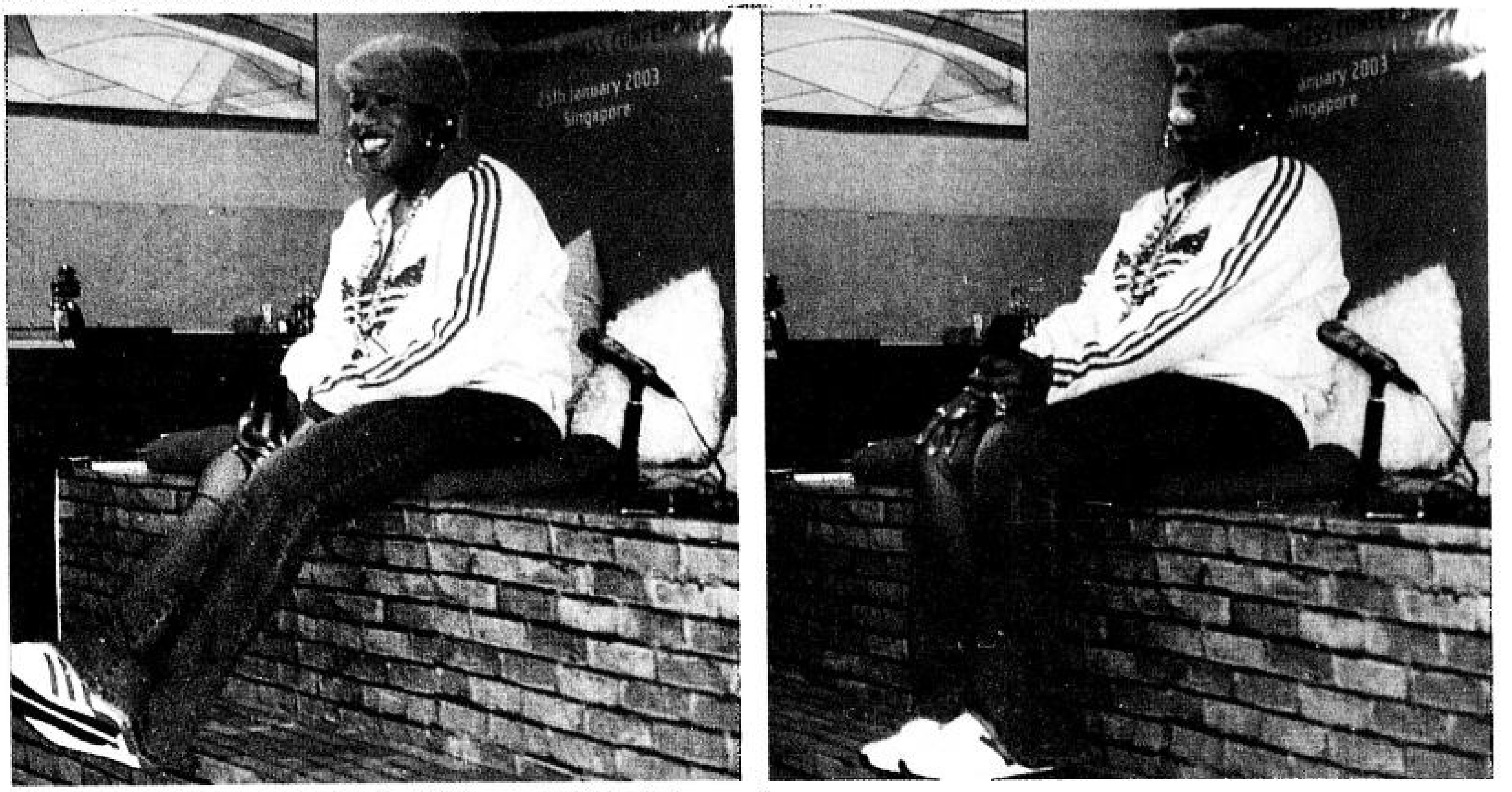


"I'D LIKE to collaborate with Michael Jackson. I'd like to make Michael Jackson rap."

From page D1

the group from Manila was one of the most applauded.)

"That was the best party I've ever been to!" Warner Philippines' Anne Poblador said, cheeks still flushed with excitement.

Undoubtedly, countless other people share her sentiments.

This is Missy Elliott, candid and unedited.

What's the best thing about being Missy Elliott?

(Right after blowing a big pink bubble) The best thing about being Missy Elliott is I can chew gum in Singapore. I get to take pictures and have fun with people who enjoy my music and get free sneakers, too!

So many other rappers have ventured into acting. Are you interested in that?

Actually, I don't really want to act. Not yet. But I also said I didn't want to be an artist. So right now, I just wanna produce movies. And if I had to do that, I want to do drama. You know, that will be a challenge for me because I'm a person who likes to joke and play all the time. It will be a challenge for Missy.

What inspired you to write "Under Construction"?

I got the inspiration for making this album from Aaliyah. She's someone who opened a door for Missy Elliott. She's one of the first artists who didn't care if we have a name or not. She just listened to our music and found new styles that she wanted to use for her second album. We grew very close to her and kinda [became] more like family. And so when I learned about the loss—excuse me, I get kinda choked up talking about this situation—but just knowing that life is so short, I think that knowing that was such a big change.

Even, say, 9/11 was a big change for me, too. How many people went to work early that day and might have had arguments with their families or sister, brother, wife, whatever, husband, and felt like, you know, I'll deal with this later. But you realize you don't have till later to say I'm sorry or I love you. That's what made me change a lot of things about me and that's why I named it "Under Construction" and just hoping in hip-hop that I can be some kind of positive force and that's what makes this album old school. 'Coz old school is when we used to have a lot of fun in hip-hop.

Can you describe the old school influences that have shaped your album?

Run DMC, the Beastie Boys record, so many records actually. The 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9. There's a lot of people back then that influenced this album—Run DMC, Salt n Peppa. I think that every hip-hop artist who was back before my time, I enjoyed listening to and it made me realize how far we've come in hip-hop, but we still have to pay homage to them because they are the ones who opened the doors.

What's your favorite song from "Under Construction" and why?

I don't really have a favorite favorite because I love the whole album. But if I had to pick, I can't even pick one. I'll say two. I think one of my favorites is number 7, the clean version of that will be "Coochy Don't Fail Me Now"—that's actually the clean title. And then "Can You Hear Me?" is one of my favorite favorites. I did it for Lisa and Aaliyah and I featured TLC on that record. That's my favorite because it brings the reality to just life in general. We go and party all-day long, we get out and drink some and then we get—I don't know if I should say this—f----ed up, whatever. We party all the time but there's another side to life, and that record kinda pushes that. It's sad but it's a reality that life is just as short.

Can you tell us about that Chinese-sounding part in "Work It"?

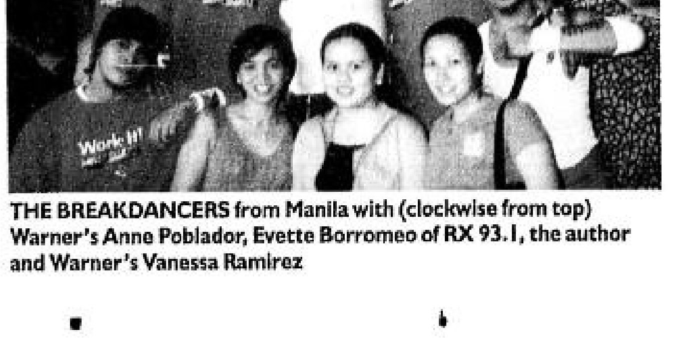
I wasn't picking on anyone. I got that from my going to the nail shop. In the States, you go to the Japanese and Chinese nail shops and they do the best nails. And whenever I go in there, I always here them talking and it always sounds the same, like they're saying "Wan tan taya taya tang-a-tang," so that's where I got it from."

Can you describe your song-writing process?

I could be walking down the street and see somebody arguing about something and come up with ideas like that, or it can be my situation or friends' relationship problems that I listened to their problems and come up with different song ideas. When I go into the studio 'coz I know that a lot of people wanna know how (Timbaland) and me work, he lays down the beat and I start singing the melody to it, and he'll start playing different sounds of whatever—baby, cricket, dog, cat, whatever. We go from there. I'm really not a person who writes sitting down. I have to hear some kind of beat first.

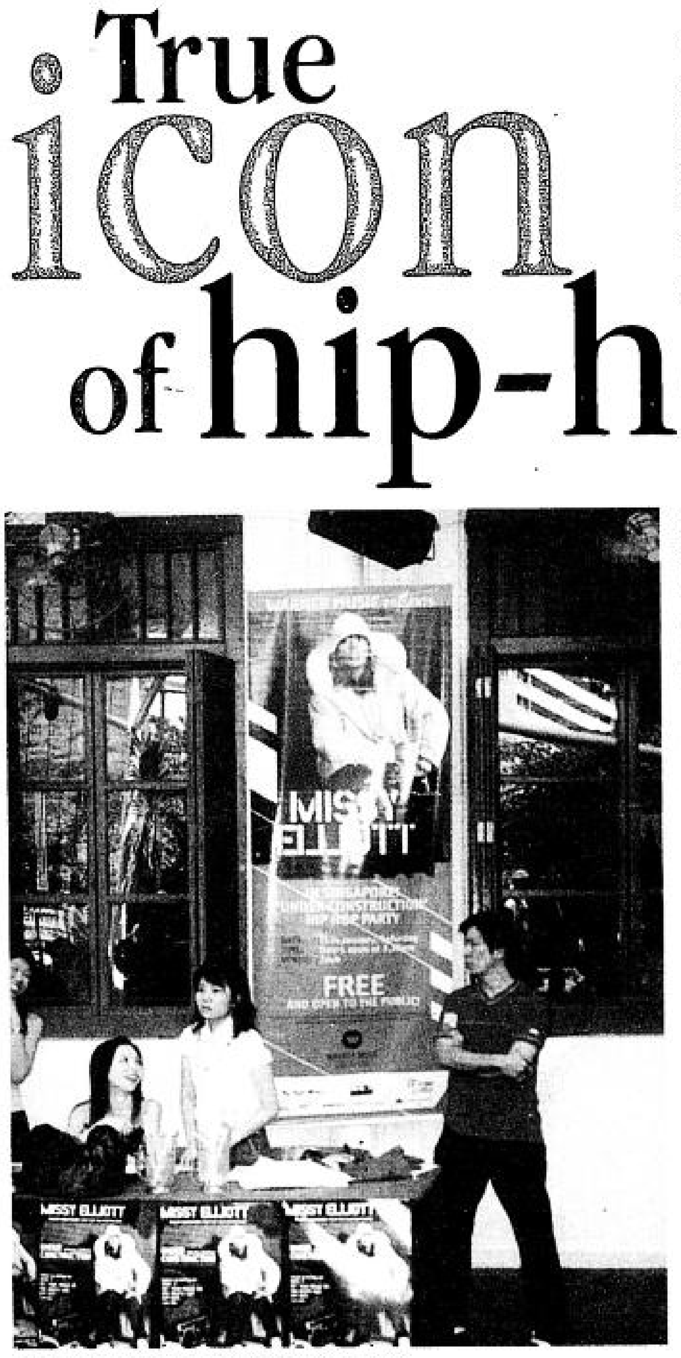
What inspires you to continue producing great music?

My fans who stick by Missy Elliott. Sometimes I know we carry far far left. With "Get Ur Freak On," I was a little nervous thinking oh God, they might think it's too far left. But when you've got fans who support you and support whatever you do and whatever you wanna be, that's what becomes my inspiration to keep doing the music that I do.



THE BREAKDANCERS from Manila with (clockwise from top) Warner's Anne Poblador, Evette Borromeo of RX 93.1, the author and Warner's Vanessa Ramirez

True icon of hip-hop



THE ENTRANCE to Missy's hip-hop party

Missy Elliot is more like a little girl who wants to have fun rather than the goddess people make her out to be

Which artist would you like to collaborate with in the future?

The artist I'd like to collaborate with in the future is Michael Jackson. I wanna make Michael Jackson rap. No babies hanging off the balcony and none of that. (laughter) Nah, I love Michael, I love him. No matter what.

Will you come out with a straight-up R&B album?

I might come out with an R&B album, I don't know. I'm not the one who really likes singing a lot... jumping around on the stage, you know you gotta be real healthy for that. You gotta be Usher, you know, to be jumping around and singing and all that stuff. I ain't Michael Jackson, I ain't Michael Jackson back in 1985. I can move around but I ain't lost that much weight yet.

Do you like to surprise people?

Yes, I love surprising people, I love doing things and being nervous. I think being nervous is a good thing because it keeps you kinda humble, too. When you stop being nervous, that's when you probably have to worry. So I worry every time I put out a record even if I think it's hot, I have a whole world to please, to see if they like it or not. I love being nervous.

How do you feel about the people who copy your style?

In the beginning, I was like, did we do that beat? I was getting confused. But when you mature, you take it as a compliment. And now I take it as a compliment when people mimic or copy because they must have felt there was something innovative about what we did. And it makes me step up my game, because you know, if somebody starts to copy you, you gotta change. So actually, it works.

What do you do with the awards you've won?

I send them to my mother's house and so she has them in one room. Oh gosh, does she brag. No, she doesn't have to brag, she got the curtains wide open in this one room where people can drive past and see all my plaques. Oh please God, don't let anybody break into my house and get my Grammys. But I doubt it. We've got so many cameras.

Why did you choose Gold Mind as the name of your label?

"I chose Gold Mind as the name of my label because it kinda speaks for itself. You think it's a treasure. I hope everything I make turns into gold. I started in this game, that's what it's been so far, so let's pray that it continues to be that gold-platinum, double-platinum.

What advice will you give aspiring artists? Do you have any trade secrets?

First thing is to make sure you're creative and original in what you do. That should keep you around for a long time. A lot of times you get sidetracked by what's hot and start to follow somebody else's lane, but as long as you maintain who you are and keep your creativity, you'll see that a lot of people want to hear something fresh, something new. And you'll be around for a while, and the advice I give is continue to do you and you'll be a leader instead of a follower. And make sure your contract is right because you don't want to be broke and everybody knows who you are. At least if everybody knows who you are, at least be living okay."

What criteria do you have when you sign an artist to Gold Mind?

They have to be creative, they have to be original. I have to hear something in them that separates them from anything that you hear on the radio. I want to be able to put their record in the midst of 20 other records that play on the radio and still stick out like a sore thumb. It has to be original, creative and not heard before.

Is there a women's cause that you support?

Break the Cycle. It's for females who have been in abusive relationships. I donated a million dollars to this charity. Iman, the model, helped me come up with a lipstick line and we gave all the proceeds to Break the Cycle.

How do you find Singapore so far?

I love Singapore. The first day I was here I shopped till I was on the bus snoring. I love it. The only thing that confuses me is that you can't walk. Like I was about to just walk across the street and they were like, no, this way, this way. I was scared that I'm gonna beat a hundred times or something. But I love it. I got like 10 pairs of sneakers that I didn't see in the States. Like this (points to the sneakers she was wearing), I see them in the States but they didn't have them in this color. And the people are very very kind, very sweet, and you got a lot of hospitality.

Who is the rapper that you respect the most?

I don't wanna say just one rapper. I respect a lot of rappers. For one, Tupac, who was very just free, what he said, he didn't try to cater to pop or whatever commercial just to sell records. He gave you what he saw in every day life and what he experienced. The same way with Biggie, I respect him for doing the same thing. You've got somebody like Naz who's very lyrically talented. His new album is amazing. JayZ, I love him. He's a cocky cocky rapper and he talks slick but that's what's fly about JayZ. The newest rapper, the hottest thing out in the States is 50 cent, you know hopefully, I don't know how soon that's gonna come over here, but the newest rapper everybody is talking about is under Eminem's label, and he's with my management label so we're on the same team. I'm not just saying this because we're on the same team but because he's very very hot. And myself. And all of old hip-hop.

Are you always on the lookout for new artists for Gold Mind? How do you go about discovering fresh talents?

Yes, I'm always on the lookout. So if any of you out there got some tracks, some music, please make it be English 'coz I really wouldn't know what y'all talking about. If it's hot, you know, we can make it happen. In the States, there's a lot of artists that come from overseas that blow. A lot of times, I just meet people out on the streets and they give me a CD or sometimes people just stop me and start rapping and singing or whatever. So, whatever you got, CDs and tracks, let me see it.

Do you think there has been progress for females in your genre which has always been geared towards the male perspective?

I think a lot of progress has been made for females in hip-hop. For one, if they were a little skeptical... you kinda have people like Li'l Kim and Foxy Brown who open that door. And the sexy rappers would come in, too. Salt n Peppa who went from just straight up hip-hop to crossing over, and they opened a door for females in this field. Our force is a lot stronger than it was back then, but then you know you got to give credit to people like Latifah who opened the door for people like Missy Elliott.

Are you happy with where hip-hop is going to?

In a sense, yes, and in a sense, no. Yes, I'm very happy with hip-hop right now because it's so huge. At first, it was very small but now it's like... I'm talking to Asians—am I saying that right? I don't wanna say nothing wrong now—I'm like 20 hours away and we're talking about hip-hop. I don't think that years ago, we were outside New York talking about hip-hop. I'm happy with that. We're really like at the level of rock and roll. But back then, it was more of an art. Now it's beginning to be a paycheck. And that's why you have people coming in kinda getting this whole thing mixed up. People weren't getting the checks they are getting now. It was really about art then. I think that's the only thing that bothers me. People having a lot of different rivalries—unnecessary—it's almost like they wake up, "Let me be mad at somebody." And they just start beefing with each other. And there was a time when it was just about us going to the club, we'd be dressed alike, hot sneakers, getting there competing with each other dancing, it was a freedom of expression but not to the point where expression is, "I'm mad at you, I'll come to kill your whole family." That's the only thing that scares me. Where it's going. But as for the leverage of hip-hop right now, I love it 'coz it's huge. Every culture—African, Japanese, Chinese, Asians, blacks, whites—is into it now.

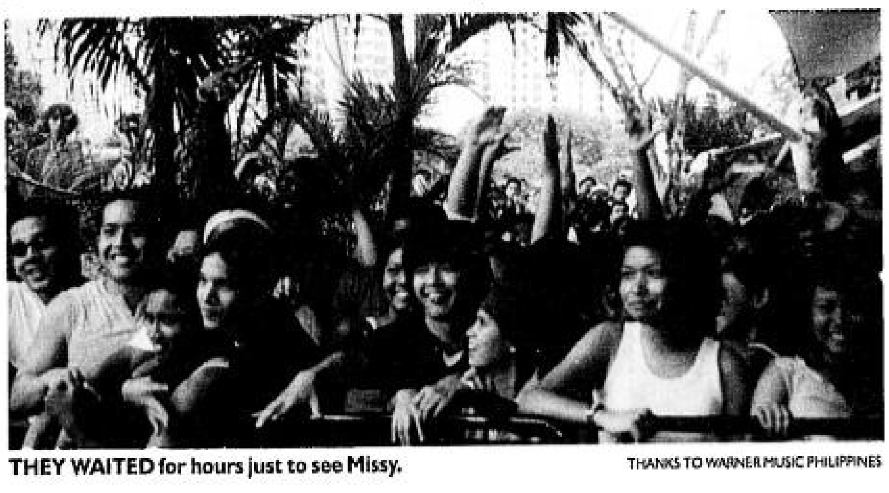
What is your ultimate dream for the hip-hop community?

To see all the artists come together that have beat right now on one record. I know you're all 20 hours away on a plane. But right now hip-hop has a lot of rivalries going on and that's not what's hip-hop really stood for back in the day. I know there was probably rivalries back then, but now it's kinda out-of-hand, and my dream is just to see all hip-hop artists come together on one record."

Is there anything that you can personally do?

"I want to do this real bad. I'm gonna reach out to a lot of artists that I don't even know that well or (haven't) even had a conversation with to see if we can make this happen."

UNITED Colors of Missy. (from left) Fans Karmen, who is Chinese, hangs out with half-Filipina Patti, and Aileen who is full American.



THEY WAITED for hours just to see Missy.

THANKS TO WARNER MUSIC PHILIPPINES

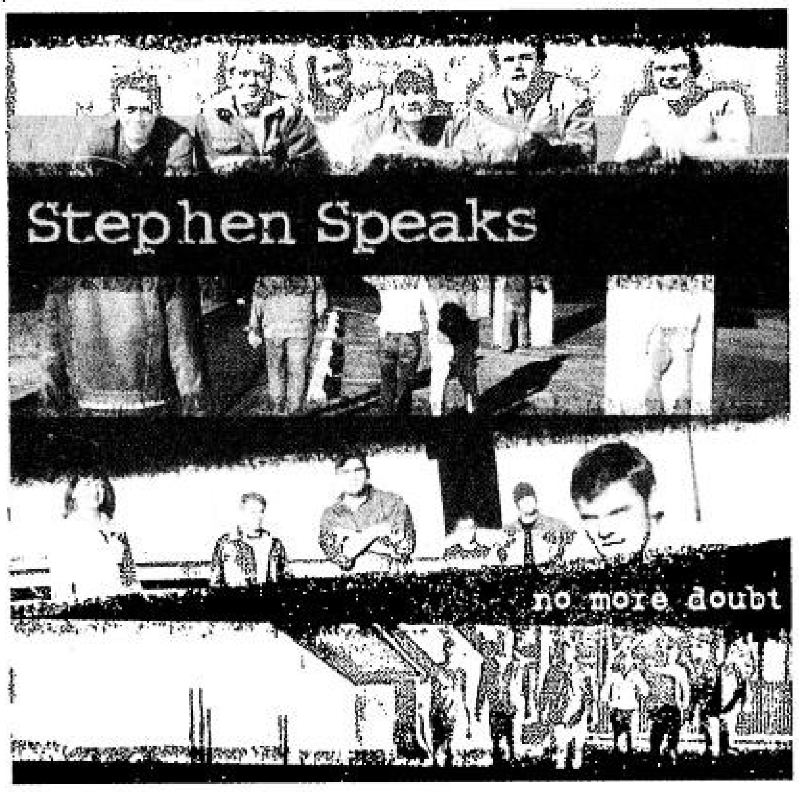
Stephen Speaks out to conquer Manila youths

By Angela V. Ignacio
2bU! Correspondent

"PASSENGER Seat," the song that launched a thousand trips to the record store, catapulted a then unknown band into fame.

Stephen Speaks' first commercial track release reigned on the charts for weeks, before it bowed down to another of their own, the playful piano track "Out of My League." All this happened without any promotion except for word of mouth from a few mp3 enthusiasts and acoustic lovers. Vocalist/producer Rockwell Ryan Ripperger said they were "simply blown away."

Now with tickets to their upcoming concert tour practically sold out within days after release, and fans making a mad dash to the nearest record store for their album "No More Doubt," the Christian rock band from Jenks, Oklahoma, doesn't have anywhere else to go but up.



So what exactly is it with their songs that has teenyboppers burning the radio stations' request lines for weeks?

Written by Rockwell and vocalist TJ McCloud, the Bible passage-inspired lyrics have that certain sincerity to it that warms the heart and lifts the sagging spirit. The ballads don't have those "I want you, I need you, I can't live without you" cheeseball lines most other love songs keep throwing at us nowadays.

Heartfelt meaning

"Out of My League," with a melody somewhat reminiscent of the old Billy Joel classic "She's Always a Woman to Me," talks about how everyday little quirks, and even doing nothing, can drive a guy nuts ("It's her hair and her eyes today that just simply take me away/and the feeling that I'm falling further in love makes me shiver, but in a good way").

The über-popular "Passenger Seat" shows how a guy can be so *torpe* and at the same time incredibly romantic ("And I've got all that I need right here on the passenger seat/Oh, and I can't keep my eyes on the road, knowing that she's inches from me").

Female vocalist Amber Sturges lends her soft, angelic second voicing to most of the songs, but it is in the dreamy tracks "What'll She Look Like" and "Complete," two of my favorites, that she gives justice to the word *harmony*. The blending is just so beautiful.

The other slow songs, "Toe The Line" and "The Leaving Song," make one think of a crowd swaying and waving glow sticks in the air in keeping with the soothing rhythm.

The fast songs, such as "Wilderness," "Filthy," "Communion" and "Feet Wet" are upbeat yet loaded with heartfelt meaning. They're all about taking a leap of faith—being human and tainted with sin, feeling unworthy, but placing our trust completely in the hand of One Who loves unconditionally.

Carefree touch

More lighthearted are "On My Way" and the slightly country music-inflected "Weather." Think fusion of Jars of Clay, Toad the Wet Sprocket and the Dave Matthews Band, with a distinct carefree touch to it. Perfect for a leisurely afternoon drive.

After wearing out my CD player with their songs for more than a year now, I firmly believe you won't find them on the roster of one-hit wonders anytime in the future.

The album "No More Doubt" promises more of the same fresh tunes and honest lyrics the first two singles provided, with upbeat and uplifting tracks to create the ultimate easy listening experience. This is a hands-down must-have for all Christian rock buffs as well as closet romantics.

The verdict? Definitely two thumbs and two big toes up.

For more info on the band, visit their official website at www.stephenspeaks.com or join their mailing list at officialstephenspeaksphilippinefanclub@yahoogroups.com.

New casual collections showcased

SUB and Giordano unveiled their latest collections at "The Now Generation Fashion Collection" series held at the Podium in Ortigas Center.

The show featured designs that combine innovative techniques and creative flair. Sub showcased designs in trendy colors styled for the GenTXT culture.

Giordano introduced Simply Black and Simply Linen lines. Simply Black line dressed up the casual look with the drama and elegance of black while Simply Linen featured a fresher version of the White and Khaki collection with chic, comfortable cotton-linen casuals—from woven bottoms (drawstring styles both in full-length and cropped styles), cotton knit tops with special details such as embroideries and crochet trims to woven tops in cotton-linen blends in basic styles and special details for guys and gals.

The show, directed by Joey Espino, included a raffle for lucky GenTXTers. Prizes were P20,000 worth of apparel, five Nokia mobile phones, a makeover from David Prestige and 20 pairs of movie tickets for the premiere showing of the "Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers."

A grand party at the Elbow Room capped the event.

The Hong Kong-based Sub opened its first outlet in the Philippines at The Podium.

Many splendored
things await you.
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Teendom's new music videos

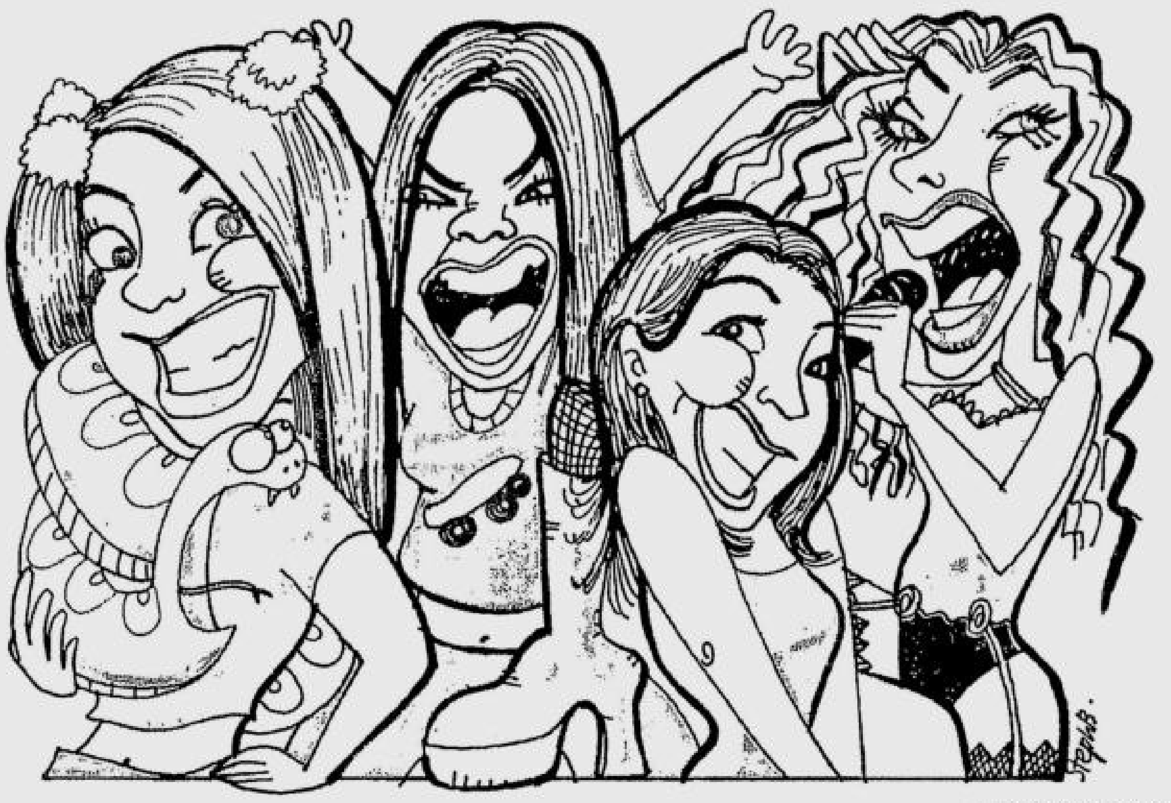


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

FIVE lovely ladies of the music industry recently came out with their respective music videos. Here's a review of their MTVs.

Beautiful Christina Aguilera

After getting down and dirty, Britney Spears' biggest rival is back. More beautiful than ever, Christina (or Xtina as she now refers to herself) releases an anthem for the freaks, geeks and imperfect beings around the globe.

In the video of "Beautiful," Xtina introduces us to her friends at Insecurity Academy: the lean lad who desperately wants muscles, the geeky girl with curly hair and braces, the disturbingly thin girl, the punk slash fashion victim, the gay guy in drag and the black lady.

In the version shown at MYX, included in the club are two gay men swapping saliva. Commendable is the director for incorporating such snippets, but even more commendable is MYX for having the balls to air such version, unlike other music channels.

However, I seriously don't understand why the gay couple had to be included in the line-up when they don't have beauty or appearance issues like the other characters.

Xtina herself might be suffering from a lot of insecurities considering all the comparison to Britney, but really, the latter can never be as talented and beautiful as Christina.

Now, what's up with the sunflower?

Anticipating Britney Spears

The guys responsible for packaging and promoting Britney Spears must be running out of creative juices and money, as evident in the "Anticipating" music video, which is just a series of footages from Britney's concerts.

It starts with Britney displaying horrible choreography (more horrible than that of Steps, thank God they've disbanded) and clad in a detestable patchwork nightmare in primary colors. But there's still some effort exerted by the video director. Like a border, he puts the clips in a crystal ball and adds a traveling, glittering sphere for effect. The most hilarious bit however, is the word "anticipating" flashing on screen.

17 Mandy Moore

Mandy has been letting her hair grow lately and she now looks like a blonde Franka Potente, who is her co-star in the movie "Try Seventeen." The trailers have been so brief that everyone's guessing if Potente plays Mandy's mom or older sis. But whatever the case, Elijah's one happy hobbit lip-locking with both girls.

Anyway, the sad, sexy song "17" has a trailer posing as a music video. Mandy doesn't even utter a syllable of the song's lyrics, which makes a lot of people wonder why the producers didn't spend on such a potential hit. (Maybe they know it's gonna be a hit, with or without a video.) Personally, I wonder why the "video" is bluish, and why Mandy is cross-eyed at the beginning.

Pretty baby Vanessa Carlton

I just have to say that "Pretty Baby" is an amazingly good song. It has that dreamy feel and the singer's longing is undeniably palpable. Whether it's a good or bad video doesn't matter.

Fortunately, the "Pretty Baby" vid is bearable, with positive points outnumbering negative ones.

The song is a plea for someone to stay, but in the video, it seems that someone doesn't feel like staying.

Vanessa, who used to look like Jolina with mumps but now resembles a younger version of Paula Cole, is haunted by The One Who Got Away (TOWGA). She goes to the garage and remembers her kissing marathon with TOWGA. She passes by the living room and is reminded of a party when she saw TOWGA flirting with another girl. There's no escape actually. Every place in the house—bedroom, music corner—brings back sad memories.

But despite the implied conflict between Paula Cole Juniora and TOWGA, we understand, at the end of the video, that the one who got away didn't really go away. All tied up, his mouth covered with tape, we see that blondie Mr. Roswell shall forever be with Miss Vanessa. Kinda reminded me of Take That's take on "How Deep Is Your Love."

Watching the video compels one to conclude that a.) Vanessa and not Britney is an actress; b.) Vanessa looks so much better when her hair is in pigtails or a ponytail; and c.) the kiwifruit on her hair is pretty distracting.

I'm with you Avril Lavigne

Sweeping off a bunch of MTV snowglobe trophies at the recent bore known as the 2003 MTV Asia Awards, The One Who Has Just Said Goodbye To The Necktie surprises many (especially those who haven't heard of the album) with a song, the pace of which is much slower than her two previous monster hits.

"I'm With You" is a remarkably good song, with a little more depth as opposed to the narrative "Sk8r Boi." In the video, Avril walks to a huge party, literally bumps into people, and walks out of it.

Pretty simple, but pretty deep when you look at it. There's nothing more to it actually, except that at some point in the video, one will realize that Avril Lavigne looks like the girl from the Hollywood version of "The Ring."

Remarkable video of the week

Iingatan ka
3YO

FOJ/Vanna Vanna is good. Silk is bearable. 3YO, meanwhile, is... uhm, let's just say ambitious. Their rendition of the Carol Banawa original brings in a mix of emotions. The original is such a sentimental song with mushy lyrics. The song's catchiness surfaces, thanks to the new arrangement, although the rap bit makes eyebrows orbit to space. And how dare that Nasty Mac do a Missy slash Timba rip-off!

Sprinkled with movie bits featuring Rowell and Ate Shawie, Aga and Mikee, and other Viva movie pairs, the video is simply a showcase of the worst choreography and wardrobe choices. All of a sudden, Jolina is forgivable and Romy and Michelle are so graceful.

A confession: I love watching the 3YO video. Nothing beats aiming verbal vomit at something that can't puke back. I love the mute button, but with videos like that of 3YO's, who needs it?

And I heard that they have a version of "Asereje."

E-mail the author/3YO fan at katotino@yahoo.com

Toilet humor, slapstick and some nuggets of wisdom

A LOT of straight women out there are emotional lesbians. One learns that from the movie "The Hot Chick."

This is a comedy flick about Jessica (Rachel McAdams), high-school Ms Popular and cruel cheerleader, who steals a pair of ancient magic earrings from the shop of Madam Mambuza (the great Angie Stone). When she loses half of the pair, a criminal at large, Clive (Rob Schneider), finds and wears it. A body switch takes place—and this is where the real fun starts.

Along with her best bud April and two other pals, Jessica (now occupying Clive's unflattering bod) tries to find out who's responsible for the major mix-up.

Suspect No. 1 is Dots, the fat science geek Jessica has included in the cheering squad to be the butt of jokes. Suspect No. 2 is the weirdo occult expert, who proves to be innocent, but helpful in explaining the situation.

Problem No. 1 is the fast-approaching cheerleading competition that Jessica has got to participate in. Problem No. 2 is the forthcoming prom.

And there's the huge predicament of facing or avoiding the people in Jessica's life: the parents, who are secretly having trouble in paradise; the sissy little bro; and Billy, the loyal boyfriend (Matthew Lawrence). To top it all, best friend April is starting to fall for Clive's exterior, whom she calls Spence and urges to apply as a janitor in their school.

"The Hot Chick" is much more hilarious than "Deuce Bigelow," even if the humor is basically toilet and slapstick, as usual. Despite this, the movie has a good number of funny moments, such as Jessica and April's signature bond clap-play, the girls' pillow fight, Spence's trip to the club CR.

Applause-drawing performances come from Jessica's younger brother, who is starting to explore his gay self; and the mother of Ling Ling, an Asian-American ashamed of her roots.

Also making cameos are Michelle Branch as a DJ and Adam Sandler as a bongo player.

Underneath all the cross-dressing and the stereotypes, however, the movie has some nuggets of gold to offer, the most valuable of which is acceptance.

When Jessica asks for forgiveness from the souls she has tormented, and accept them for their fun special selves, newfound friendships bloom. To her eyes, those she has detested suddenly become lovable, dependable creatures, when they have always been like that.

The movie also implies that acceptance should start in the family.

When the little brother discovers and believes the criminal guy sobbing in bed is actually his sister, he is asked, "How did you know it was me?" He replies, "I accept you for who you are," hinting that his sister should accept him and his penchant for lipstick and high heels as well.

As for the lesbian stuff—April has fallen in love with Spence, but what mostly draws her to him is actually her best friend residing underneath all those muscles and body hair. In reality, girls want their boyfriends to be also like their girl friends. *Niño Mark M. Sablan*

E-mail the hot author at katotino@yahoo.com

THE CAST

ANNA Faris, Rob and Sam Doumit

ROB Schneider as Clive

TOM Brady, Rob and Michael O' Keefe

ROB with Anna Faris

DICK Gregory

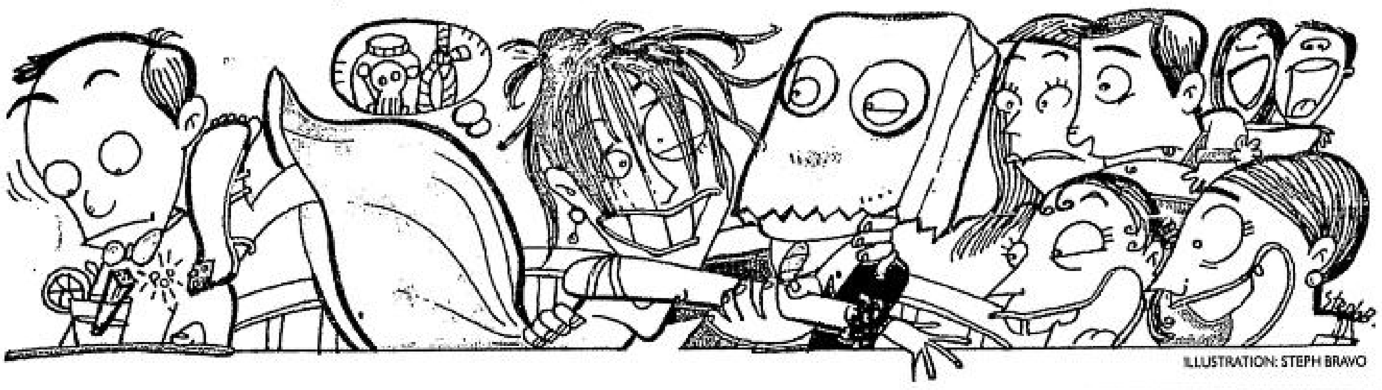


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Here's another excuse for going on a 'kikay' spree to pick out the perfect gown and the right makeup look

How to achieve the prom queen look

Vanity Fare

Lora Gabot

RANKING high in my list of highly forgettable yet painfully memorable memories is a mortifying moment from the first prom I ever attended. No amount of prepping and planning assured me of a goof-proof prom.

That night, I was Murphy's Law personified. I caught a cold and was sneezing through dessert, my seemingly immaculate chignon was half-undone even before the prom king was crowned, my strapless bra was sneaking its way to my stomach. Get the picture?

I begged my date to make an exit as soon as we had our prom picture (which perfectly captured my misery) taken to spare myself of any other mishap that could take place, but apparently, it wasn't too wise a move, either.

You see, at 15, I did not have the intimate bond I now share with high heels and stilettos and was too excited to even consider "breaking in" the glass slippers I picked out for my supposed fairy-tale evening. As my escort and I made our way down the grand staircase of the hotel, the three-inch heel of one of my strappies snapped, and I had to wobble like a ballerina with a sprained ankle while amused onlookers snickered at my misfortune. A fitting ending to a teenage milestone? No!

I have finally outgrown the "Mentos Girl" (go figure) monicker my buddies "christened" me that night and have forgiven the shoe store that sold me that faulty shoe. Looking back, I think it was a pretty enjoyable, not to mention entertaining evening, except I had been the one who made it so.

Possible red-faced experiences aside, going to the prom can be one exciting adventure. With or without the class heartthrob as your date, picking out the perfect gown and deciding on a makeup look and hairdo with your buds are surely a blast! It's the perfect excuse to go on a *kikay* spree, pamper yourself, or even pull a Madonna and totally reinvent yourself for one night. Now I'm pretty sure all the anticipation leaves practically no room for a detailed *kikay* game plan, so allow me to share a checklist of beauty rituals for prom night.

Watch your skin. Just because you will be allowed a little more foundation than usual on prom night does not mean you should neglect taking care of your complexion. Next to being fun, pre-prom preparations mean loads of stress (especially if you've put off dress shopping till the last minute) that translate to skin trouble. Turbo-charge your skin-care regimen with a stress-busting product to revive lackluster skin. St. Ives' Eye and Face Stress Gel does wonders to an abused complexion.

Late nights of agonizing over which Prince Charming to take to prom can put nasty bags and dark circles under your eyes. Do your peepers a favor and get enough sleep every night. If all attempts fail, however, add an eye treatment to your bedtime ritual. Give St. Ives' Vitamin K Eye Cream a shot and watch those raccoon shadows disappear.

Plagued with zits and monster pores? Get those fingers off your face and don't even think of doing an emergency remedy, a.k.a., pimple-popping, to get rid of those spots. Use a deep cleanser, toner and treatment with salicylic acid to prevent new blemishes from stealing the show on prom night and to minimize craters that might cost you the prom queen title. Invest in L'Oreal's Pore Minimizing Range—the extra bucks off your budget will be worth the compliments you'll get from your date. Wage an even bigger anti-zit war with a healing mask like The Body Shop's Tea Tree Face Mask every weekend.

Thinking of visiting the derma for a session of pricking? Better make sure you have at least a week to allow any inflammation to subside. Lobsters never qualified for any prom award! If you really have to seek professional services but the party is three days away, go visit a spa and avail of a relaxing facial. Remember: absolutely no pricking and no harsh treatments. Visit Essenses for some pampering after accessory shopping.

Soft, silky hair equals prom queen. Make sure your locks are worthy of a crown. Get a trim to zap unsightly split ends and give hair more body and bounce. An important note when visiting your stylist for a prom makeover: Don't do a 360° move. No pink highlights (unless you've been a closet punk all along), and forego the mohawk if your date turns out to be a dud in a tuxedo. Be subtle about reinvention. Avoid botched coloring jobs by going for a transparent rinse (like cellophane) that enhances natural hair color while kicking up shine. Get a few face-framing layers for the feminine tendrils your hairdo requires. The trick is to have a look that will make them stare, not gawk.

Hair treatments are crucial for a commercial-model mane. Your hair is bound to suffer some abuse (blowdrying, hairspray) on prom night; it better be in the pink of health. Fried locks are a no-no even after prom, so don't take any risks. Use a regular conditioner after shampooing every day (I like Pantene Complete Care Nourisher and Clinique Dramatic Moisture Conditioner), and tote around a leave-on or spray-on conditioner especially if you're usually outdoors (try The Body Shop Palmshine Leave-on Conditioner or Kiss Kids No More Knots Detangler). Use a deep treatment once a week for maximum moisture and nourishment. Stylists and stars say Kerastase Masquintense is the trick to achieving Hollywood hair.

Body of evidence. Prom-goers are bound to bare. Who can blame them? It's one of the rare high-school functions that does not impose a strict dress code, and girls grab the chance to show off the toned bods that hide in frumpy school uniforms all year long. Back-baring dresses, plunging necklines, tube tops and spaghetti (more like *sotanghon* to me) straps all require bare-worthy skin; as I always say, a fabulous dress is but a piece of fabric on bad skin.

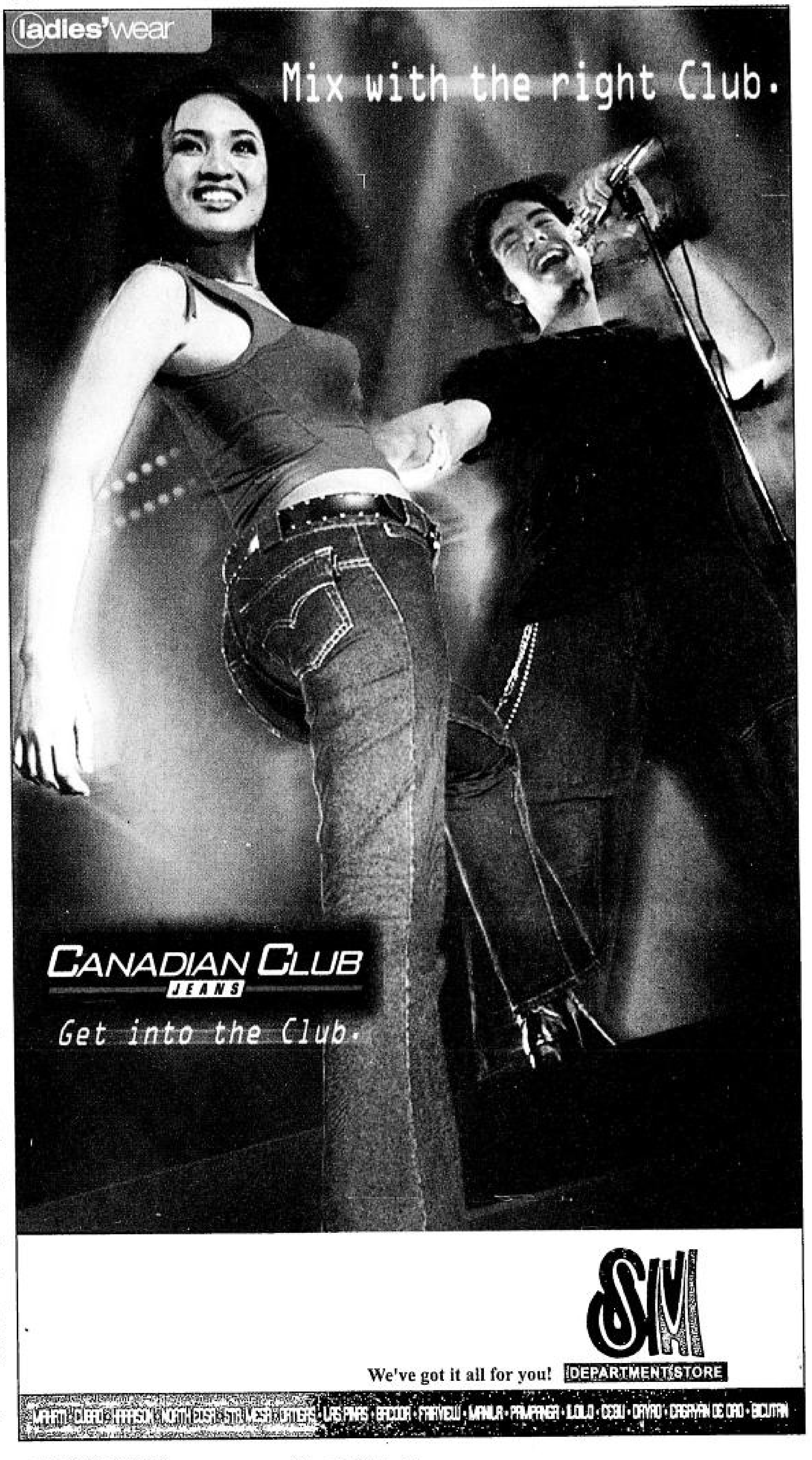
Now that you've gotten rid of what's left of the Noche Buena that stayed in your midsection, it's time to focus on skin. The key is to exfoliate regularly, and to follow with a rich moisturizer to keep skin smooth and supple. Use a body scrub to banish unsightly bumps. One I love: Origins Salt Scrub. Immediately after your shower, lock in softness with a body gel, lotion, or oil. While any lotion will do, The Body Shop's Olive Dry Oil Mist leaves my skin glowing and fragrant.

As I've said, time and again, wax, shave, pluck, bleach whatever needs to be.

One last piece of advice: Break in your prom shoes.

Kiss Kids at Beauty Bar; St. Ives, Pantene, L'Oreal at PCX; Clinique, Origins at Rustan's; Essenses at Rustan's Makati; Kerastase at David's and other fine salons; The Body Shop at all major malls.

E-mail the author at pdi_vanityfare@hotmail.com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2BU! THERMOMETER

Britney's hot date, Doby look-alike, and guess who's going to topple Las Ketchup

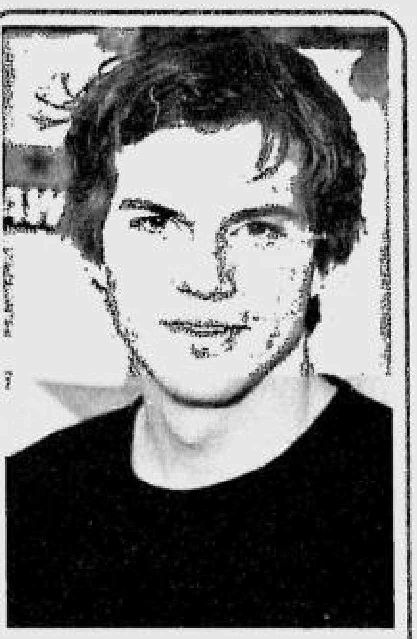
Gone in 60 seconds–Last Monday, McDonald's launched its hottest promo yet: If you do not get your order in 60 seconds, you get free dessert! Although this has its schedule and several guidelines, it does make us feel better that the outlet has raised the fast-food war stakes a notch higher.

Coke
Vanilla
355 mL

Vanilla Coke–It's a soda float in a can. Heavenly!

Coffee Pie at Sentro—Even people who don't like coffee will love it.

How are they doin'? Lots of good cameo roles in equally good series are upcoming. There's Madonna, who's slated to appear on "Will and Grace" in May, and Vin Diesel on "Friends," as Joey's wannabe actor cousin.



The Next Man of Steel? No one's confirmed to play the title role of Superman yet, although according to E! online, Ashton Kutcher has auditioned for the role. So far, what's been confirmed is that it will be directed by Bret Ratner, not Michael Bay or Joel Schumacher, as rumors have it.

Doby as Putin–Remember Doby of "Harry Potter" fame? Wonder why he looked somehow familiar? If you watch a lot of CNN, then you would have probably noticed that this house elf character looks somewhat like Russian President Vladimir Putin. And two Russian lawyers aren't happy about it. According to reports credited to a Russian newspaper and radio station, an unnamed group of lawyers in that country are planning to file a legal suit because "the supposed Dobby-Putin resemblance is very real, very intentional and, therefore, an infringement on the superpower leader's image."

Natalie Imbruglia–Wondering what the Australian singer is up to? Well, news have it that she's been engaged to Silverchair's Daniel Johns. That's it for now.

It's about time –On May 14, Dawson, Joey, Jen and Pacey will be spewing the last of their angst-filled statements and love quotes, in the program's two-hour season ender in the US. After five years, the previously highly-rated teen drama has turned into a younger version of "Melrose Place," what with the rampant exchanging partners that went on among the cast. Still, "Dawson's Creek" will be missed.

Shuttle Souvenir–The world has yet to completely mourn the tragic accident that was the space shuttle Columbia, when the online auction site, Ebay, received several calls from people offering to sell fragments of the shuttle. Debris from the accident is spread over large areas in Texas and Louisiana. But these fragments never made it to the official listing since owning said debris is considered a federal offense.

It looks like rumor that Britney Spears dating either Fred Durst or Justin Timberlake (again) has become old news. The hot news is Colin Farrell. The two have been seen doing a lot of snuggling and kissing during and after the movie premiere of "The Recruit," which stars Farrell. Never mind if the actor is a purported player, judging from the March issue of Playboy magazine.

Cheeky Girls–Move over Las Ketchup. The Cheeky Girls are taking over the airwaves. At least, this time we understand the lyrics, although they're really stupid.

8th issue of comic book-mag now available

THIS month's issue of W.I.T.C.H. is bursting with exciting things. Meet two adorable W.I.T.C.H.-loving guys who reveal what they like best about this comic book-magazine and the W.I.T.C.H.ies who read it. Take a special quiz and find out which Heatherfield and Meridian boy will be the perfect match for you. Take your pick:

Mysterious Boy Cedric. He may be irritating and unpleasant sometimes but his willful spirit, sharp mind and intense glances have absolutely stolen your heart.

Sweet Boy Matt. The boy next door smiles at you sweetly, looks at you sincerely, and talks to you kindly. He's someone you didn't notice before but now he's special to you because he's simple, tender, spontaneous and generous.

Boy of your Dreams Caleb. Hand some, mysterious, fascinating and courageous, he's the guy who stepped straight out of your favorite romantic movie.

W.I.T.C.H. is available in magazine stands and bookstores nationwide at P75 per copy. Subscribe now and get the chance to win cool cell phone bags from Bag-a-holic! Call 526-1082 or 536-7450 for Metro Manila, (032) 412-3366 to 67 for Visayas and (082) 224-5818 or (082) 221-6227 for Mindanao.

Vote for your favorite boys of summer

SEVENTEEN Philippines finds out who's got what it takes to make your summer sizzle with a list of this year's most promising celebrities and athletes.

The Top Seventeen Boys of Summer will be featured in Seventeen's May issue. To vote, type FN BOYS VOTE <first name><last name> Example FN BOYS VOTE John Prats. To view the Top Seventeen Boys, type FN BOYS TOP17. To view the number of votes per candidate and trivia, type FN BOYS <first name><last name>.

To view the running tally visit www.femalenetwork.com/boysofsummer. If you don't see your favorite hottie on the current listing, grab the January-February issue of Seventeen Philippines and check out the complete list of boys or type FN BOYS VIEWALL on your mobile. Send all keywords to 211 for Smart or 2333 for Globe subscribers. An amount of P2.50 will be charged for every successful message sent.

Voting period is ongoing until March 31.

Hot love on mag's February issue

IT'S time to get love-smart in the February issue of Cosmopolitan Philippines. Cosmo gathers all the tips and tricks you'll ever need: from makeup and fashion wonders that will transform you into a Valentine goddess to sexy secrets on being the woman he's always dreamed of.

Valentine's Day is definitely going to be one special day with Cosmo! Find out what men really feel and think about women, love and romance. The magazine's guy spies will also show you some wonderful ways to become the one unforgettable woman in his life.

Learn how to love your own body and get him all hot and ready with a sexy striptease disguised as a workout. Follow that up with some devilishly delightful moves courtesy of Cosmo's ultra-sultry Kama Sutra manual. Plus, get Blush, Cosmo's free Valentine's Day Special mini-magazine. It's packed with tips on how to be sexy in a minute, subtle ways of saying "I love you," and fashion tips on how to look sweet, sexy and pretty in pink.

But if you think V-Day is just for lovers, think again! Believe it or not, being manless on Valentine's Day can still be love-filled. Cosmo dares you to take heart with its single girl's get-happy guide.

This month's cover girl Kristine Hermosa is proving that sweet still sells. Kristine has shown that you can get what you want without popping a single shirt button. Celebrate tinseltown's current Crush ng Bayan and find out how she snagged plum roles in both TV and film, and continues to lord over print ads and billboards by just being herself.

Cosmopolitan Philippines is available in your favorite newsstands and bookstores. Subscribe now and get a chance to win a gift from Alchemy, Girl and Poudre T. LeClerc, all from Essenses of Rustan's.

Night of wishes coming true

THE DEBUTANTE Paula Garcia

CARDAMS heiress Paula Garcia celebrated a fantasy debut recently at the Quezon Ballroom of the Makati Shangri-La hotel.

The ballroom was made to look like an enchanted forest filled with bubbles and mist. Guests were ushered in by hobbits in whimsical costumes. As visitors had their cocktails, they were entertained by a magician at the ballroom's foyer.

Silver balloons in the shapes of stars and crescent moons adorned the ballroom. Tiny cages with colorful live butterflies served as table centerpieces. The debutante welcomed her guests in a dream-like video, not making an appearance until the guests have been seated.

A string ensemble played in the background as guests enjoyed the sumptuous dinner.

Then with a wave of a magician's wand, a ball of flame and the drawing of a curtain, the debutante suddenly appeared sitting on a specially crafted crescent moon in an Inno Sotto gown. Paula had her first dance with her father, lawyer Dupil Garcia, as actor JM Rodriguez sang "Young at Heart."

The debutante was presented 18 roses by model Robbie Manantquil, Ateneo cager Wesley Gonzales, Marzo Gino Samson, Otto Von Samson, Marc Adrian Naval, Tyerone Vincent Corquerra, Teodoro Camacho V, Bienvenido Antonio Gomez, Christian Torio, Reagan Pacheco, Emilio Miguel Gonzales, Kim Lemuel Lam, Danilo de Guzman, the debutante's brothers Andre and Carlo, and Dr. Rommel Caballes.

After the final rose was presented, the debutante and her father danced to the tune of "The Way You Look Tonight". A specially produced video showed the debutante and her passion for dance.

The debutante then did a dance of dreams with her "royal court" in a Medieval-inspired cotillion number, prepared by choreographer Anna Marie Quirino. The hobbits opened the ballroom doors to welcome the cotillion entourage. Participants wore Ignacio Loyola outfits and top-of-the-line Cardams footwear, looking like fairy princes and princesses. The debutante, in a second Inno Sotto gown, and her escort DJ de Guzman, followed.

Included in Paula's royal court were: Tamarah Ma. Almario and Anthony Santiago, Ma. Patricia Gaite and Victor Villavicencio, Rina Rose Andolong and Jaime Gonzales, Katherine Ann Unson and Patrick Allan Dee, Nina Kristel Samson and Roel Ronan Mendoza, Ann Mariel Dionisio and Jan Michael de Garcia, Ma. Matalia Moran and Carlos Vicente Campa, Ma. Theresa Vivian Ventura and Gregorio Rafael Bueta, Micheline Vina de Jose and Carlos Bernardo Concepcion, Marie Therese Rivera and Paulo Luciano Nuguid, Michelle Francesca Abesainis and Ericson Paul Yee, Ma. Isabelle Dominique Lagdameo and Vicente Co, Antoinette Palou and Rafael Gerardo Garcia, Anna Camille Ignacio and Angelo Paolo Trias, Carmela Imelda Cancio and Pio Butz Pascual, Cristina Milagros Puyat and Vicente Rodriguez, Krystle Bacani and Ian Augustus Anthony Sangco, Ma. Cecilia Perez and Manolo Peñalosa.

THE DEBUTANTE with her escort **DJ** de Guzman

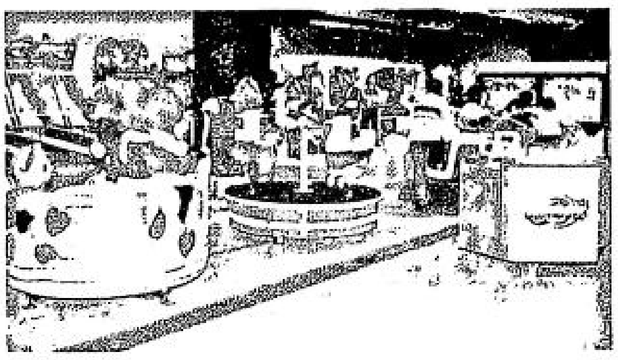
Instead of the traditional 18 candles, Paula had 18 of her friends write their wishes for her on magical scrolls, which were collected by a hobbit and sealed in a magic bag—for the debutante's eyes only.

The "Happy Birthday" song was done around a Heny Sison cake that towered over the debutante and her family. Paula had the chance to sing with Cynthia Alexander, one of her favorite singers. DJs Jon and Marc Naval of Club Olive later provided the music for the dancing.

Leslie S. Lagdameo wrote the script and directed the whole event while production design was done by Jay Eleria, stage design by Mel Ignacio, and production coordination by Ellen Samson.

PAULA with her cotillion dancers

THE DEBUTANTE with her family: (clockwise from left) Andre, Dad Dupil, Carlo, Mom and Ellen



Amusement center features more game machines

DREAM Zone, located on the 3rd level of Robinsons Place Manila, features new video machines and a wider selection of redemption games from Quantum, Bondeal and G-Box.

Dream Zone also has popular retail shops like Filbars, Gifts R' Us, Obra ni Juan, and food carts and kiosks. Admission is free every day of the week, including weekends and holidays.

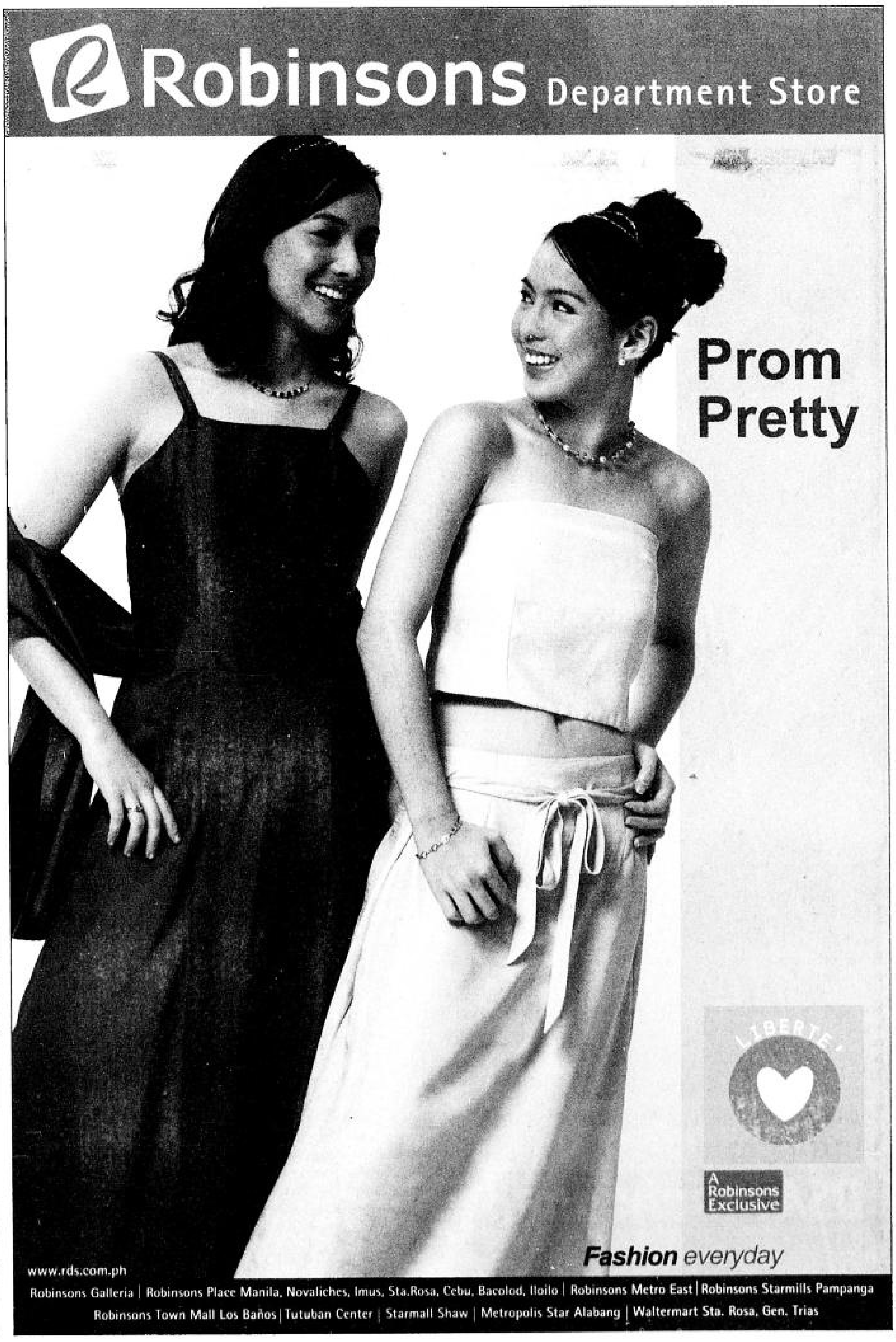
Arcade game lovers will find their most wanted, action-packed favorites like Tekken Tag, King of Fighters, Time Crisis, Scud Race, Beat Mania and Daytona, among others. Those who go crazy over network gaming can play Counter Strike, Battle Realms, Star Craft, War Craft, Red Alert 2 and Diablo 2.

Redemption games, on the other hand, now offer more prizes for kids and adults alike. One point can easily win you a prize such as toys, cartoon merchandise and even home appliances!

If you're seeking a speed rush, the Amazing Racers and Adventure's Arena are your best bets. Also try Elmer's Wonder Flight and Wind Riders Telecombat.

New additions to Dream Zone are 10 videoke rooms and several booths for those who want to enjoy a round of singing.

Call 302-0084.



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Spend Hearts Day with Boyz II Men

IMAGINE spending your Valentine's evening with your loved one being serenaded by the soulful voices of Boyz II Men. Imagine not having to shell out a single peso for this once-in-a-lifetime chance.

You don't have to settle for just imagining.

2BU! readers will get a chance to bring their dates to the most romantic concert in Manila this year. All you have to do is send in your favorite Boyz II Men song that best describes your love story and tell us why you chose that song.

Send your entries, along with a picture of you and your loved one, to contest2bu@inquirer.com.ph or to 2bU! Contest, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Don't forget to include your name, age, school/office and contact information.

2bU! will choose one winner each week for four weeks. Each winner will receive two tickets to the Boyz II Men concert, which is presented by Jag Jeans and Close-Up.

Contest runs until Feb. 12.

This week's winner is Anna Gonzales.

Here's an excerpt from her entry.

"This song was first sung to both of us by our friends even when we still didn't have a relationship. Every time Rikki and I would be seen together, people would start singing "Colorful, colorful..." which is the chorus of the song. Aside from the love that was 'blossoming' between us, my boyfriend's surname is Macolor.

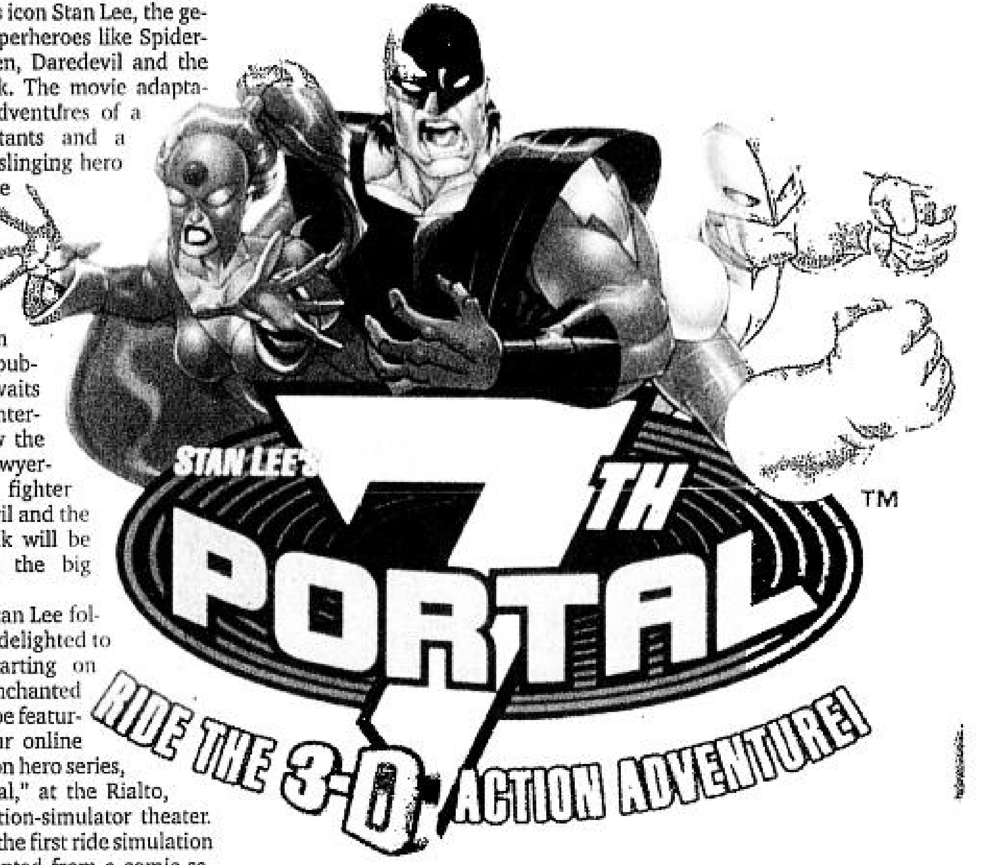
Though it was just recently that I have seen the complete song lyrics, I've been singing it to myself every time I think of him (Kahit laging chorus at "colorful, colorful" lang nang paulit-ulit.)

He came into my life when I least expected it. "Then an angel out of the blue gave me the sense that I might make it through." And he loves me so much. No matter what happens, even if we fight about the smallest things, making up is always a happy thing, and we end up loving each other more.

I hope this cinches it. We both love Boyz II Men."

Winners may claim their tickets from Pam or Jason at the PDI office on Mondays, 4 p.m. onward.

Stan Lee film at theme park in Laguna


STAN LEE'S
7TH
PORTAL
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RIDE THE 3-D ACTION ADVENTURE!

LAST year saw the resurgence of interest in comics icon Stan Lee, the genius behind superheroes like Spiderman, the X-Men, Daredevil and the Incredible Hulk. The movie adaptations of the adventures of a group of mutants and a teenaged web-slinging hero reigned at the box-office and reunited us with the creative mind of the celebrated Stan Lee. Now the public eagerly waits with as much interest to see how the blind lawyer-turned-crime fighter called Daredevil and the Incredible Hulk will be translated on the big screen.

This year, Stan Lee followers will be delighted to know that starting on Feb. 7, Enchanted Kingdom will be featuring his popular online animated action hero series, "The 7th Portal," at the Rialto, the park's motion-simulator theater. "7th Portal" is the first ride simulation film to be adapted from a comic series, and is a collaborative work of Stan Lee Media, Paramount Parks, Blur Studio and iWerks Entertainment.

"7th Portal" features the Data Raiders, a band of extraordinary teenagers who, once transported in cyberspace, transform into superheroes tasked with protecting cyberspace from the menacing Mongorr and his evil minions called the Nullifiers. Here we see a new set of wonderful Stan Lee characters in Thunderer, Gossamer Girl, Oxblood, Conjure Man, Imitatia, and Streak and their evil counterparts in Vendetta, Whipsaw, Slyme, Vultura, Bearhug and Krog.

Riders get to join the noble fight when asked to assist the Data Raiders who are attacked by Mongorr and the Nullifiers and the experience begins. The whole ride affords viewers the chance to meet the colorful 7th Portal characters and witness their unique superpowers. The ride simulation film also breaks new ground stylistically in creating the look of a comic book coming to life. "7th Portal" has a rich, illustrative look with saturated colors and sharp edges.

To entice more park-goers and Stan Lee fanatics to experience "7th Portal," Enchanted Kingdom will be offering a special admission ticket called "Super 7." From Feb. 7 to March 30, guests may avail of the specially priced Super 7 ticket for only P200 (weekday and weekend rate). The Super 7 ticket allows guests to enjoy unlimited access to 7 fantastic rides: Roller Skater, Bump n' Splash, Up Up and Away, Flying Fiesta, Dodgem, the Grand Carousel and the Rialto. The limited edition ticket is available at the Makati Sales Office and at the front gate.

Enchanted Kingdom is open Wednesdays to Fridays, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; and Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Shuttle services to Enchanted Kingdom are available at the Ayala Center terminal. Buses leave Makati at 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on weekdays; and at 10:30 a.m., 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. on weekends. Departure from Sta. Rosa is at 7 p.m. on weekdays, and 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. on weekends. Call 830-2111 to 16 or 843-6073 to 78.

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LIFESTYLE

A new Hugh

He does not stutter or fidget and he answers every question politely, charmingly—gosh, is this really Hugh Grant?

By Alexis L. Loinaz
Contributor

HE'S Britain's most dashing export since James Bond. But use the word "bumbling" to describe Hugh Grant, and you'll leave the actor more shaken than stirred.

Grant, who made his mark playing tongue-tied, self-effacing chaps in such comedies as "Four Weddings and a Funeral," "Nine Months" and "Notting Hill," is anything but bumbling. And you quickly sense why.

On a chilly fall morning in a midtown Manhattan hotel, the actor coolly glides into the room, one hand clasping a cup of coffee, the other crunching his unwieldy morning hair. Dressed in faded jeans and a lavender-and-white-striped shirt—the top two buttons undone—Grant traipses through interview questions with the elan of a White House press secretary dodging a hail of national-security missives from hard-nosed reporters.

He does not stutter. He does not fidget. He answers every question politely, charmingly, directly.

It's hard to believe that Grant has cornered the market on characters who stammer more often than George W. Bush. Still, the actor has trouble living down this image, and so now he's remedying that: He's showing some on-screen attitude.

From his smarmy turn in last year's "Bridget's Jones's Diary" to his endearing but self-involved bloke in "About a Boy," Grant seems intent on chucking his British-gent threads and piling on a naughty-boy garb. This month, he continues the transformation with "Two Weeks Notice," his Desi-Lucy-esque team-up with Sandra Bullock, where he plays an egocentric businessman who eventually woos the idealistic lawyer who despises him.

Grant talks to the INQUIRER about this image shift, why he's scared of Julia Roberts and that baby he reportedly had with Sandra Bullock, among other loony tidbits.

You detest the word "bumbling," which has often been used to describe your early comedic performances. Is there a reason, then, why you've recently portrayed more cocksure but cynical characters?

Well, yeah, I did want to get away from that. I'm always in awe of when people describe me, Hugh, as bumbling, because I don't find that I am and no one who particularly knows me finds that I am. So I always find that a bit patronizing. I think that some fault lies with me there, because I think that having had that success with "Four Weddings," I felt that the only way that Americans would ever like me was if I did the same kind of stuff again. And I think I did do it too often. So it was partly my fault and partly circumstance.

"Four Weddings" was a small film that happened to snowball into a huge hit. If that film didn't become popular, where do you think your career would be now?

I remember walking up the stairs in Soho [in New York] to that audition. And I was just 32 and thinking, This is positively the last audition I'll ever go to. It's not dignified, and I've really never been that passionate about this job. And, as irony would have it, I got it. But yeah, I would have gone back to doing more and more of those radio commercials and become one of those talkback kind of figures.

After all the endearing fops you've played, your acting has come to appear quite effortless. Does any anxiety or self-doubt ever creep into your creative process?

If we were rehearsing, I'd be very free and relaxed. I can do it 10 times out of 10 pretty well. But getting there on the set—the pressure of money and time—you can't be light and easy. That's the torment of my life. And that's why I spend the 14-hour day on a film set in a permanent state of terror and nerves. I'm amazed that anyone still hires me, because I think I am now classified as being difficult [flashes a sly grin].

Daniel Day-Lewis always stays in character, and Tommy Lee Jones shrugs off his character when the camera stop rolling. What's your acting secret?

Only alcohol [laughs]. And that's not appropriate on a film set. For a very, very long night shoot, I might have a beer right about five in the morning. In fact, I think I'm better, but I'm way worse. So I don't know that I'll continue that experiment.

Your acting career seems to splinter into two tracks: high-minded British fare such as "Four Wedding and a Funeral" and "Notting Hill"—both written by Richard Curtis—and accessible American comedies such as "Mickey Blue Eyes."

You could make that argument, I suppose. For that reason, I try to be more and more vigi-

A NEW/ E2

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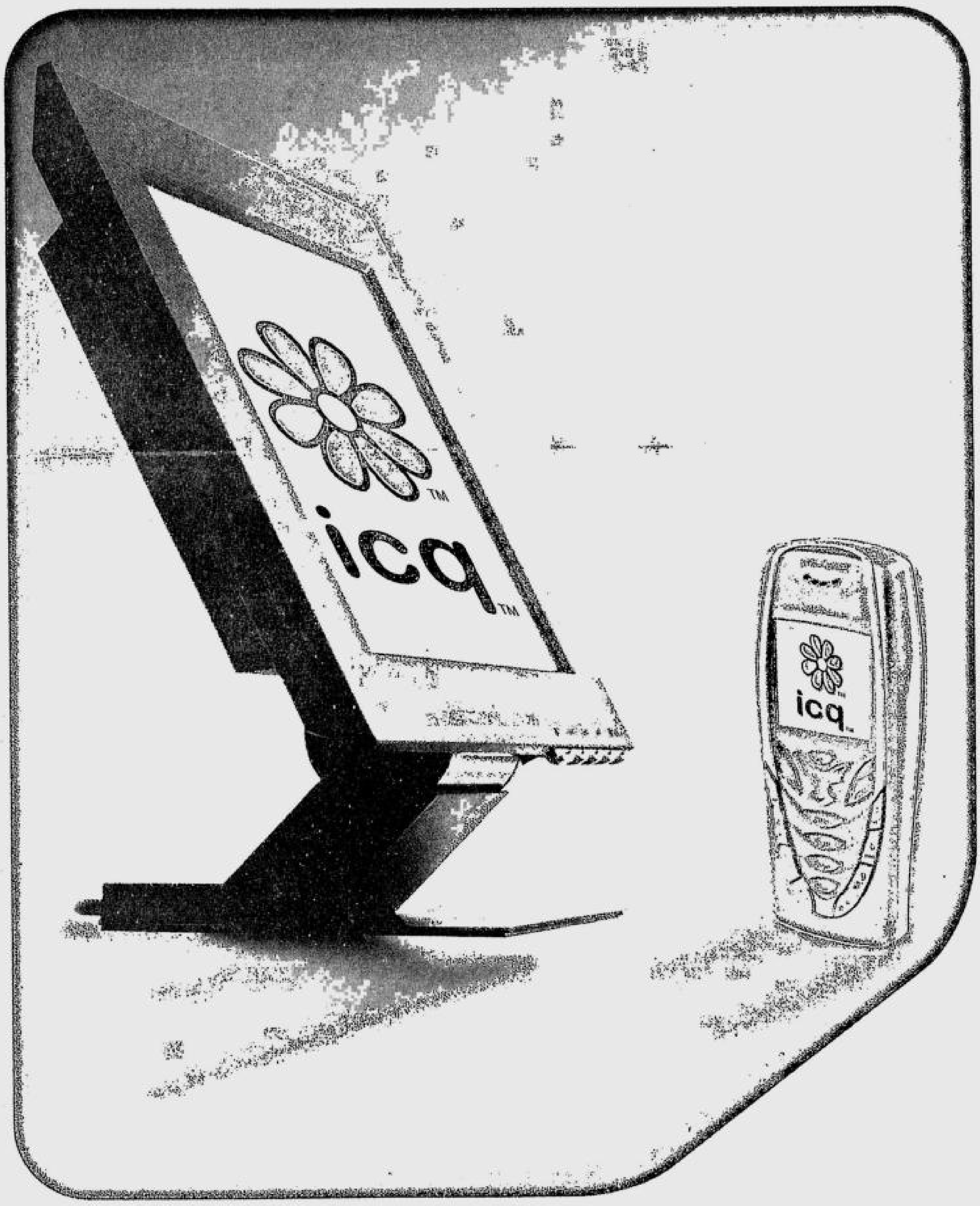

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A new Hugh

CORNERING the market on characters that stammer, Hugh Grant is seen on Two Weeks Notice early this year.

From page E1

lant when it comes to American scripts. Generally speaking, 99 times out of a hundred I turn them down. And then very occasionally one comes along which I think is as intelligent as a Richard [Curtis] script. With [Two Weeks Notice]—maybe because it comes out of Los Angeles, and I usually hate these things—I thought this was just really witty and well-written. And that's always been my criteria: Is it well-written? Does it make me laugh? Is it charming? And if it is, then I do it.

Let's talk about "Two Weeks Notice." You've once said you felt like you'd come home to Sandra Bullock, that she was the actress you were meant to work with. What's the lowdown on the reported Queen of Romantic Comedies?

She would argue that I am the Queen of Romantic Comedies. We've been trying to put ourselves together for years and years. And having now done it, it did live up to all my expectations.

Was there anything about her that struck you?

Well, she has of course enormous personality defects [smiles]. No, she's incredibly charming. She's got a touch of what my ex-girlfriend has: this amazing delusion that they can do everything. She has a very, very puerile sense of humor, which appeals to me very much. That was one of our main problems making the film: just old-fashioned giggling. There's a scene in a restaurant where she picks ice out of my glass. And just the plopping noise that the ice made into the glass—how funny is it? We actually had to do 50 takes.

Rumors always fly whenever actors and actresses work together, and you and Sandra created quite a stir when you attended last year's Oscars together. Does this gossiping bother you?

I think it's part of the course. [Teases] I don't think I've ever done a film with anyone whom I haven't slept with, except for Nicholas Hoult in "About a Boy"—thank God!

Well, there were rumors that you and Sandra had a baby—fess up now.

Yes, in England! Yeah, we've had a baby, we've been engaged, we've been having an affair, we hate each other. I don't know. These things just happen. They're completely out of one's control. You can't deny them, you can't do anything. Deny it and it sounds like it's true. That's just how the business is.

You've now worked with both Sandra and Julia Roberts, two actresses who have at one point been dubbed—pardon the cheese—"America's Sweetheart." Any comparisons?

Well, this is very dangerous territory. I actually love them both, and there's a huge amount of similarities. I had a good laugh with both of them; they're both incredibly good at what they do. The only difference is, I couldn't say I honestly feared Sandra Bullock. But I still have a little fear of Julia. She has a scary quality.

Scary quality?

I don't know, I don't know. Maybe it's just because when I made ["Notting Hill"] with her, my career was not at its zenith and hers was. And so I always felt slightly in awe of her. So I don't know. I'm scared of Julia.

Do you still keep in touch?

No. But I see her sometimes. I saw her at the Oscars, and she was extremely friendly. We get along very well. But we don't call each other.

Do you plan to continue exploring characters with a more mischievous streak?

I have made no commitments at all for next year—in fact, for the rest of my life. There are some scripts sitting there in my hotel, and if one of them is really fabulous, I might be tempted to do one more. I've always had this thing of maybe working for ten years after becoming successful. So if I could get to the beginning of 2004 and then pack it in, that would be a round number.

What would you do then?

I'd probably end up just puttering around the house—that's my fear. It would be difficult not to squander all that time. The problem is I'm now potentially the idle rich, whereas the only thing that ever got me doing anything in the past was a need to pay the rent. What I would like to do is to really buckle down and write a script and direct it and do something creative and fulfilling. I really would not want to direct and act in the same thing—[it] would probably be insane. I mean, I'm neurotic enough just acting.

E-mail the author at alexisloinaz@yahoo.com

ON co-star Sandra Bullock: "She has a very puerile sense of humor...we've had a baby."

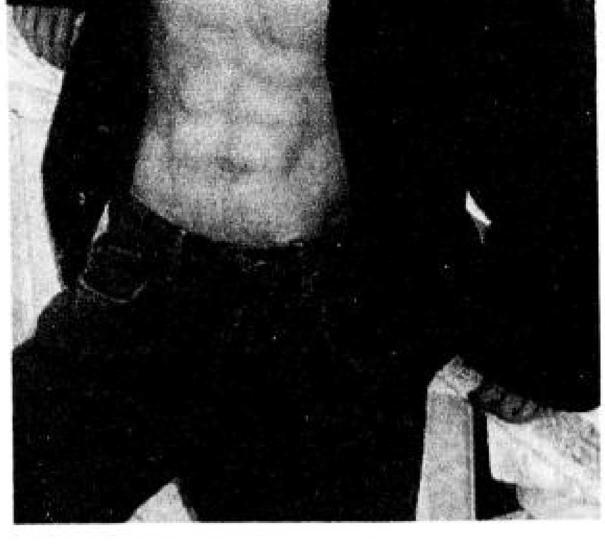
"I'M neurotic enough just acting."

Fashion nomads in exotic Istanbul

JAG Jeans flew to exotic Istanbul, the ancient capital of the Byzantine Empire and the glamorous crossroads of fashion through the centuries. The occasion was the climax of the Best Model of the World competition covering 90 countries. In the spotlight were the Philippines' very own MTV Fashionista Best Models 2002 Bim Cecilio and Gilmarie Pacamarra. Cecilio romped home with "Prince Model of the World" and Pacamarra with "Best Asian Model."

For the style trek, Jag Jeans suggests classic denim jackets of different lengths, midnight cords the color of the Caspian Sea teamed with tees the color of the Turkish countryside. Rough-hewn denims, workmans' trousers, striped woolens as well as weather-beaten flares completed the nomad look.

In store for fashion fans are the must-have Jag Jeans denims in different washes and shapes. Denims continue to be practical but stylish everyday wear that lets you travel from one occasion to another, one empire and continent to another.



Shoe line kicks up a storm

KICKERS capped 2002 with a year-end fashion show at the newly refurbished Kickers store at the 2/L of the Pedro Gil wing of Robinsons Place Manila. The event launched a more confident, fun and contemporary Kickers—the latest Wear Them Out collection.

The Wear Them Out collection's basic style comes in hues of black, mid-brown and nut while the casual line inspires a relaxed attitude typical of the Kickers ethos. The fashion elements are used subtly to create the Kickers look—cool and comfortable. The contemporary line remains light, stylish yet comfortable. The materials used were in fashionable colors often with a vintage finish. Many of the fabrics were aged mechanically or by means of repeated washing, over dyeing, bleaching or over printing to achieve the "antique look."

The Wear Them Out shoe line boasts of robust ankle boots and half boots in various heights that's perfect for weekend partying. New outsole designs with innovative thread patterns also provide better traction. Moccasins and loafers are also included in Kickers' latest collection.

FINALIZING the partnership agreement between BayanTel and Triumph are: (from left) Cindy Ñahil, Maritess Canlas, Rodrigo Montinola, Mary Arlene delos Santos and Ricardo delos Santos

Discounts for phone subscribers

TREATS such as discounts and free items await BayanTel subscribers with the "Ang Sarap Maging BayanTel Subscriber" rewards program.

Triumph booths at BayanCenters give as high as 50-percent discounts on selected Triumph undergarments. Promo runs until June 30.

BayanTel subscribers can also enjoy more discounts when they present their proof of BayanTel payment at selected establishments such as Viajero's Grill and Restaurant, Fontana Leisure Park, Club Manila East and Cabalen.

Concert marks RP-Japan fest

THE JAPAN Foundation and the Embassy of Japan bring to Manila the music of Shigeko Suzuki in a two-day pre-Valentine concert at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Dubbed as "Presence: Musika Para sa Puso at Damdamin," the concert will open the annual Philippine-Japan Festival 2003 from February to March. Suzuki has won major awards in Japan and has performed in several countries around the world.

She is joined by her band composed of Toyoji Kuriyama (percussion), Yoshiteru Ito (guitar), Kazuki Watanabe (piano) and Nobuaki Kobayashi (bass). Manila is the first leg of their Southeast Asian tour. She will perform next in Jakarta and Macassaru, Indonesia.

"Presence" premiers with an invitational concert at the Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino of the Cultural Center of the Philippines in Pasay City on Feb. 12, 7 p.m.

Treat yourselves to an evening of enchanting music on Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m, also at the Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino. This concert is open to the public and is free of charge. However, reservations are required. Call 811-6155 to 58.

Great buys for shoppers until Feb.15

STA. Lucia East Department Store transforms its store into a lovers' shopping haven with decors and gifts for Valentine.

Until Feb. 15, shoppers will be treated to a wide selection of great gift ideas.

Shoppers will also be given a Valentine treat. They may join the Hearts' Desires Grab-a-Prize Promo for a minimum purchase of P300 and win gifts sponsored by Jaygee and Secosana bags and Ever Bilena Cosmetics on Feb. 12-14.

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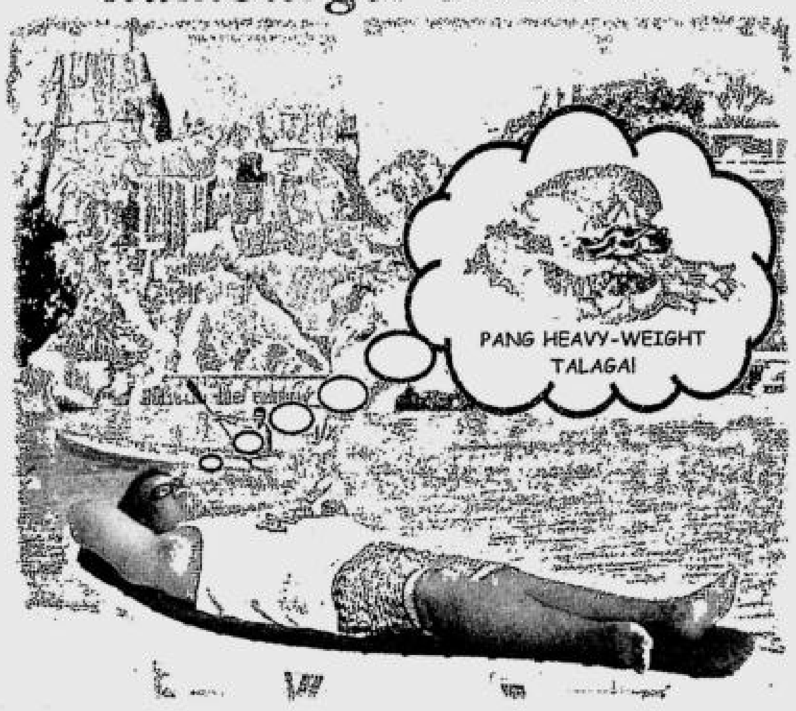
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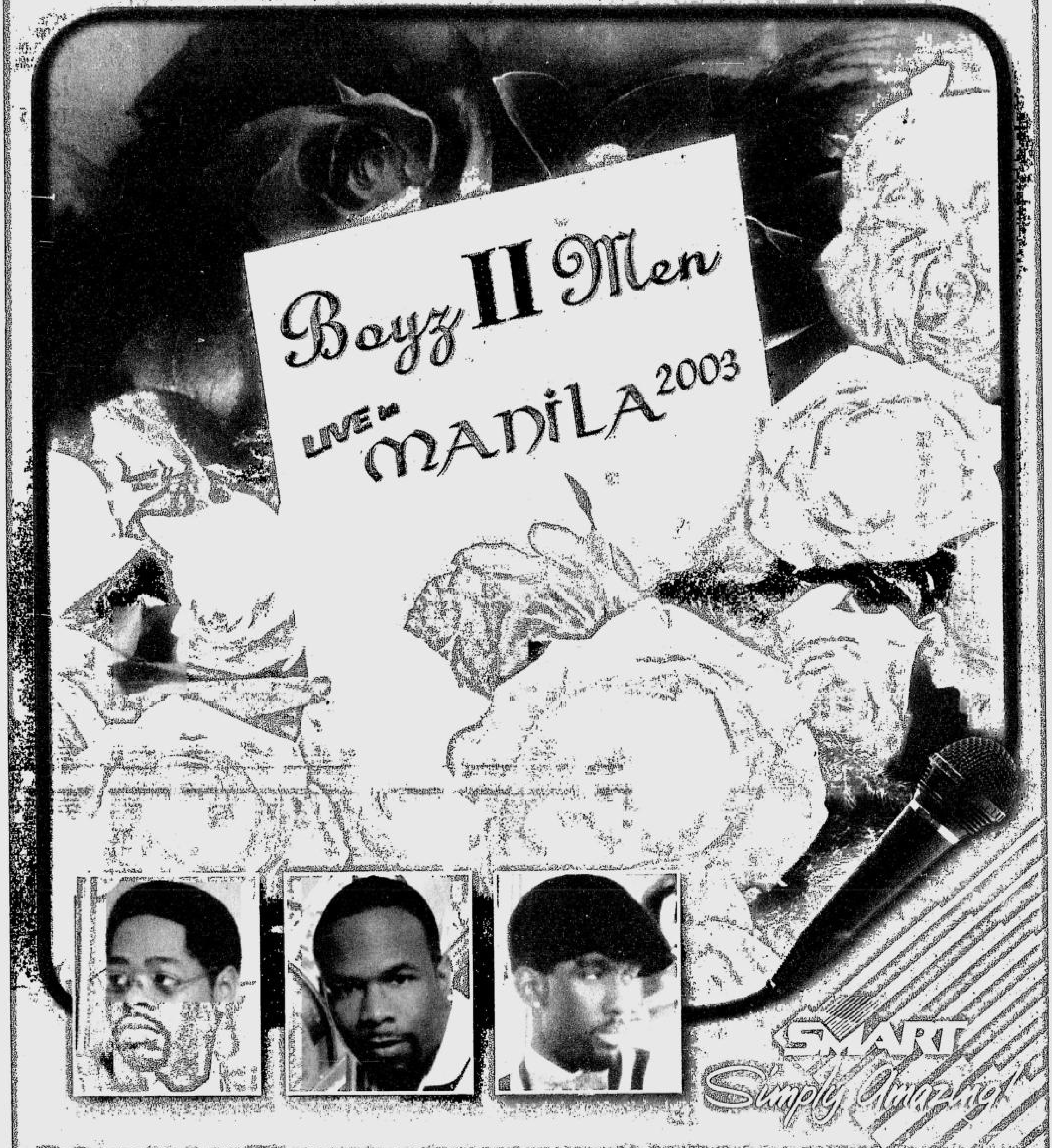

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The Fort (Open Field) • February 14, 2003 • 8:30 P.M. • Friday

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Simply key in **WINTIX** and send to 20[illegible].

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You can even get the chance to be part of the 20 privileged subscribers to join the exclusive Pre-Concert Party. Or, even be chosen as the one lucky winner to MEET and GREET the Boyz II Men group.

You can also SIM Swap to SMART Buddy on the night of the event, February 14 at The Fort Open Field and win a SMART premium item.

Watch out for the special SMART Gold offer to new subscribers and switchers. See flyers for details.

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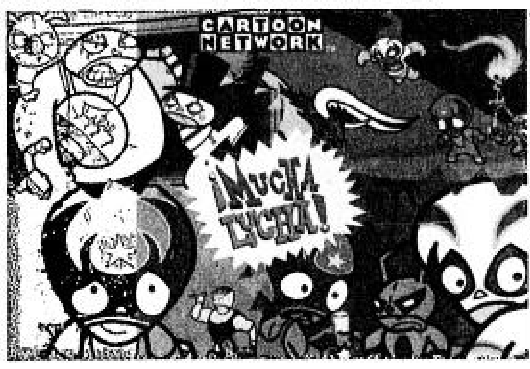

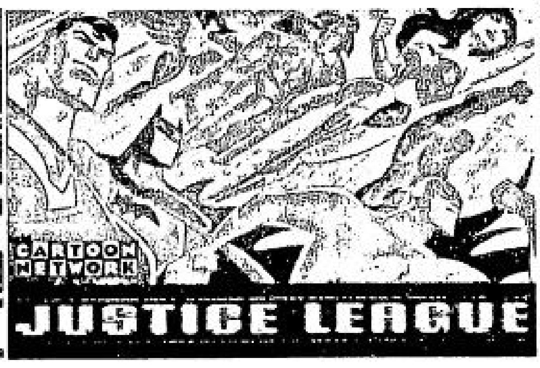

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SM Tutuban, 4 pm
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Schedule subject to change without prior notice

Cartoons animate anyone and everyone in between

By Jason Doplito
2bU! Correspondent

DEXTER, Cow and Chicken, the Powerpuff Girls and Johnny Bravo transcend time and age that it is no wonder you see teenagers and adults acting like them. You have geniuses who root themselves at the top spot in everything they do, girl trios who never separate, and Don Juan de Marcos who think of themselves as God's gift to women. If you haven't found the cartoon character that gives life to your inner desires, or you want to emulate, check out the latest series from Cartoon Network and put on that costume.

"The Justice League." For student activists, school leaders, political science and law students, and Libras.

Who else would idolize Superman, Batman and Wonder Woman than the young people who've always dreamt of becoming heroes in real life? In this series, you get tips on how to save the world while juggling school work and household chores. And it isn't easy, especially with the all-too powerful villains that have been wanting to see the demise of well-loved Superman and Batman. Since being a super hero is such a heavy responsibility, there's no love story angle here.

Also, politicians can learn a thing or two from "The Justice League." You really don't see Wonder Woman advertising a detergent soap or the Green Lantern starring in a movie, do you? It also features other DC Comics characters such as the Green Lantern, the Flash, Hawkgirl and the weird-looking Martian Manhunter.

If you want justice served fast on a silver platter, starting this month, count on this series to do its job.

"Codename: Kids Next Door." For the problem child, brat and gadget freak.

Do you still remember Voltron? Especially the scene where the five spandex-clad members each has a "moment" before riding his mean feline machine? "Kids Next Door" has a good spoof of this scene, and if only for that, this series deserves a warm welcome.

In April, the adventures of Nigel Uno (leader of the group), Hoagie Gilliam (mechanical genius and pilot), Kiki Sanban (diversionary tactics expert), Wallabee Beatles (hand-to-hand combat master) and Abby Lincoln (eye candy) will reveal how they have managed to stay up late at night and eat whatever they want (but where are the veggies?) without earning palm smacks from their parents.

But aside from pestering their folks, these kids have also vowed to champion the cause of children everywhere by devising awesome gadgets made up of common materials. So if you think you're smart enough, maybe you haven't seen the "Kids Next Door."

"X-Men: Evolution." For outsiders and people who are "different."

If you've always hated cheerleaders and popular kids in school because they make fun of you, then the X-Men will make you feel a little bit better. Sure, it's not easy being green, but that is nothing compared to what these guys have to go through. After all, some of them are covered with blue fur, have scaly skin, and won't be able to experience what a kiss is like. But despite being labeled freaks by humankind, they continue to fight against evil mutants who use their powers to attempt world domination.

But, unlike the previous X-Men series, Evolution will feature Storm and Wolverine as teachers who are out to lead their young students while they learn to take control of their

CARTOONS/ F2

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Cartoons animate anyone and everyone in between

From page F1

newfound powers. That may make some of us feel a little bit older, but that's the way it really is.

So the next time someone makes fun of you, invoke the spirit of Professor X and give him a lecture on discrimination and equality.

"Whatever Happened to Robot Jones." For the shy and introvert.

You remember how terrifying first day in school is. There are different unspoken rules as well as social hierarchies that keep the shy ones always on their toes.

Now imagine how terrifying the world of adolescents is for a robot.

Robot Jones is an experimental robot who tries to cope with life, fit in with humans, and, most terrifying of all, survive junior high. Three feet, eight inches tall, weighing 500 lbs and equipped with a 9,468 mega-volt memory, Jones should not have as much trouble as his namesake, Bridget. But instead of having trouble with singleton life, Robot Jones has trouble dealing with emotions as he is socially awkward and overly dramatic at times. And it doesn't help that he's deeply infatuated with a girl in school.

To be launched in June, this series is full of wit and reality-based experiences that you can't help but love this young robot.

"Mucha Lucha!" For the war freaks, wrestling fans and flash designers.

In Mexico, aside from the *mariachi*, *lucha* is another form of entertainment. Here, wrestling takes on a more colorful note as participants have fancy monickers as well as campy face masks.

Imagine all those colors translated into cartoon.

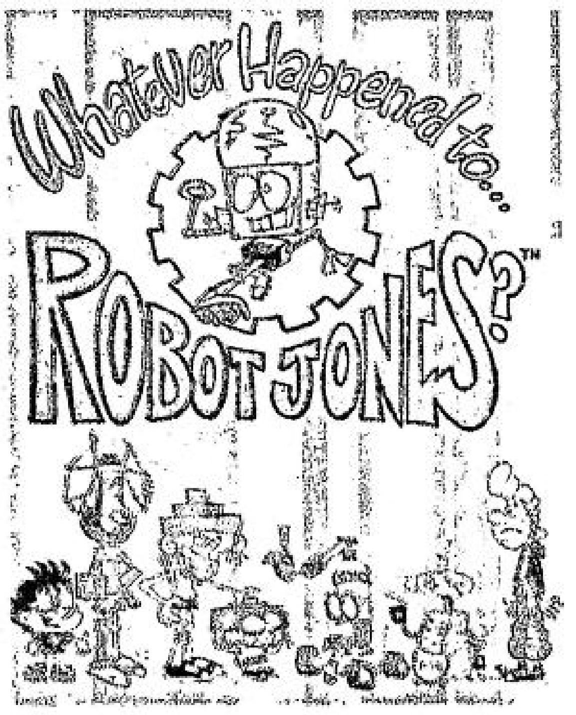
"Mucha Lucha" is a wacky look at the challenges facing Rikochet, Buena Girl and The Flea at the Foremost World Renowned International School of Lucha. For example, coping with an angry killer toilet. But the best school is always challenged by another rival school, and in this case, that's the Hairy Knucke Wrestling Academy.

Before they all become great masked wrestlers, they have to live by The Code of Masked Wrestling: honor, family, tradition and donuts, and that isn't exactly easy to follow.

Created solely by flash animation, this series is guaranteed to be as crazy as the premise of the story.

"Ozzy and Drix." For medicine, biology and anatomy students and the scientists at heart.

Ozzy, who looks like a lactobacilli shirota strain, was accidentally injected inside the body of 13-year-old Hector Cruz. This is the start of his adventures with his over-the-counter cold pill sidekick, Drix. Together, they battle the evil villain, Scarlet Fever, while avoiding some mishaps like being "flushed out."



From a 3-ft robot to the Kids Next Door, take your pick at the latest dish in animation series

Highly imaginative as the duo takes you on a cruise inside Hector's body system, "Ozzy and Drix" makes science more interesting. Also watch out for celebrity voice guestings. Premieres in September.

"Baby Looney Tunes." For babies at heart.

The Looney Toon characters made significantly smaller and sweeter—nothing is cuter than that. Premiering in July, you'll get to see how things began for the Road Runner and Coyote Ugly, Tweetie Bird and Sylvester, and Bugs Bunny and Daffy Duck. They're all living under Granny's colorful house and big backyard, so it should be a blast having them all around at once.

All the right moves, style and spunk

MEG magazine, in cooperation with Skechers, recently invited all Meggers to an adrenalin-pumping show of hip moves and synch grooves. A crowd packed the Grand Atrium of the Shangri-La Plaza Mall for the interschool dance competition Meg Moves Year 3.

There to announce the start of the competition was Meg editor in chief Pierra Calasanz.

The Miriam College High School girls, in their funky black coats and canes, danced to a hip medley. De La Salle Zobel's charming damsels seized the stage with their versions of Christina Aguilera's "Dirrty" and Madonna's "Die Another Day." St. Joseph's Academy's babes in black wowed the crowd as they romped to "Charlie's Angels'" theme.

St. Paul College-Pasig gave the judges a hard time when they grooved to their selected hits. The audience got a high as Great Christian Academy bared their best in a hip and hot number.

Miriam College was declared the grand prize winner for the second time in Meg Moves. St. Paul College-Pasig and St. Joseph's Academy bagged second and third place, respectively.

"Gameplan's" Carlo Ledesma, event host for the evening, joined the fun as he handed out raffle prizes. All participants got a trendy pen from Sony to go with other Meg freebies.

St. Joseph's Academy romped away with Skechers gift certificates–an extra treat for participants who grooved in Skechers footwear. The audience also got a chance to win cool and comfy tees from Skechers.

Event sponsor Mesaki pitched in special gift packs for the Mesaki Girl Award, given to participants who best exuded freshness and freedom from stress.

The board of judges included UP choreographer and professor Bunny Brendia, Footwork Int'l. (Skechers) marketing officer Paul Pebenito, Sony Phils. Inc. Personal Audio marketing specialist Judy Jamolangue and Shangri-La Plaza Corp. tenant management division's Kat Samson.

Meg Moves was co-presented by Skechers Sport and the Shangri-La Plaza Corp. Major sponsors were Sony Walkman, Mesaki, Magic 89.9, NU 107.

Meg Magazine is published by Mega Magazines and Publications Inc. (MMPI) and is available at leading bookstores and newsstands nationwide. Call 631-2859 local 29.

GRAND prize winner once more, Miriam College high school's dancing damsels prove to be one tough act to beat.

meg
moves year3

RED is the color of victory for these blooming babes of St. Paul's College-Pasig who were hailed as second place winners.

Woodrose School bags choral tilt's grand prize

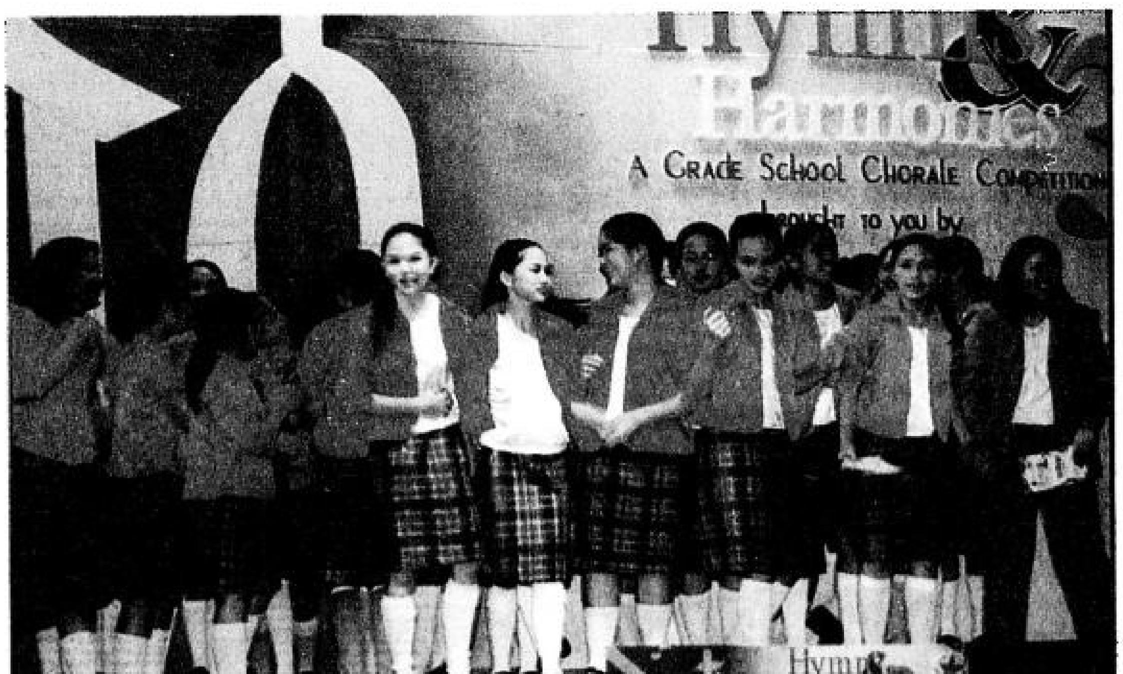
FAMILY Reader (FR) magazine recently brought together grade-schoolers from various schools for an evening of beautiful music. Budding singers gathered at the Insular Life Auditorium, Insular Life Corporate Center in Ayala Alabang for the FR magazine and Insular Life's Hymns and Harmonies 3 A Grade School Chorale Competition.

The grand prize was conferred to Paref Woodrose School Inc. with Miriam College Grade School and Paref Rosehill School in second and third places, respectively. A special appreciation award, given to the school that best exemplified talent and dedication in their performance, was presented to St. Benedict College. The SBC chorale team bagged a second special award, the Insular Life Choir award, which was given to the group for the beauty and significance of Filipino values that they have shown in their piece.

All winners received trophies and cash prizes from FR and Insular Life Assurance Company Ltd. The prizes were awarded by event host Christine Jacob, FR brand assistant Melissa Bitanga and Insular Life product manager Joy Cecilio Linsangan.

Among the board of judges were: Christopher Ong, assistant conductor of the Ateneo Chamber Singers and musical director of the Ateneo High School Glee Club; Robin Estrada, a member of the Ateneo Chamber Singers, and Raul Navarro, assistant professor of the conducting and choral ensemble department of the UP College of Music.

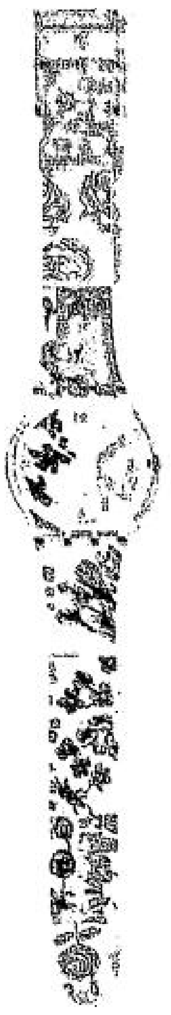
THE PAREF Rosehill School bared their brand of musical magic as they performed onstage.


Hymns & Harmonies
A Grade School Chorale Competition
brought to you by

THE PAREF Woodrose School chorale basks in the spotlight and indulges in 15 minutes of fame after being proclaimed the grand-prize winner.

MIRIAM College Grade School dish out heartfelt hymns and delight the audience with their performance.

Dreamy, springy and summery watches



SUMMER blooms early with Essence Printaniere.

THE SWATCH Spring-Summer 2003 Collection is a field of dreams.

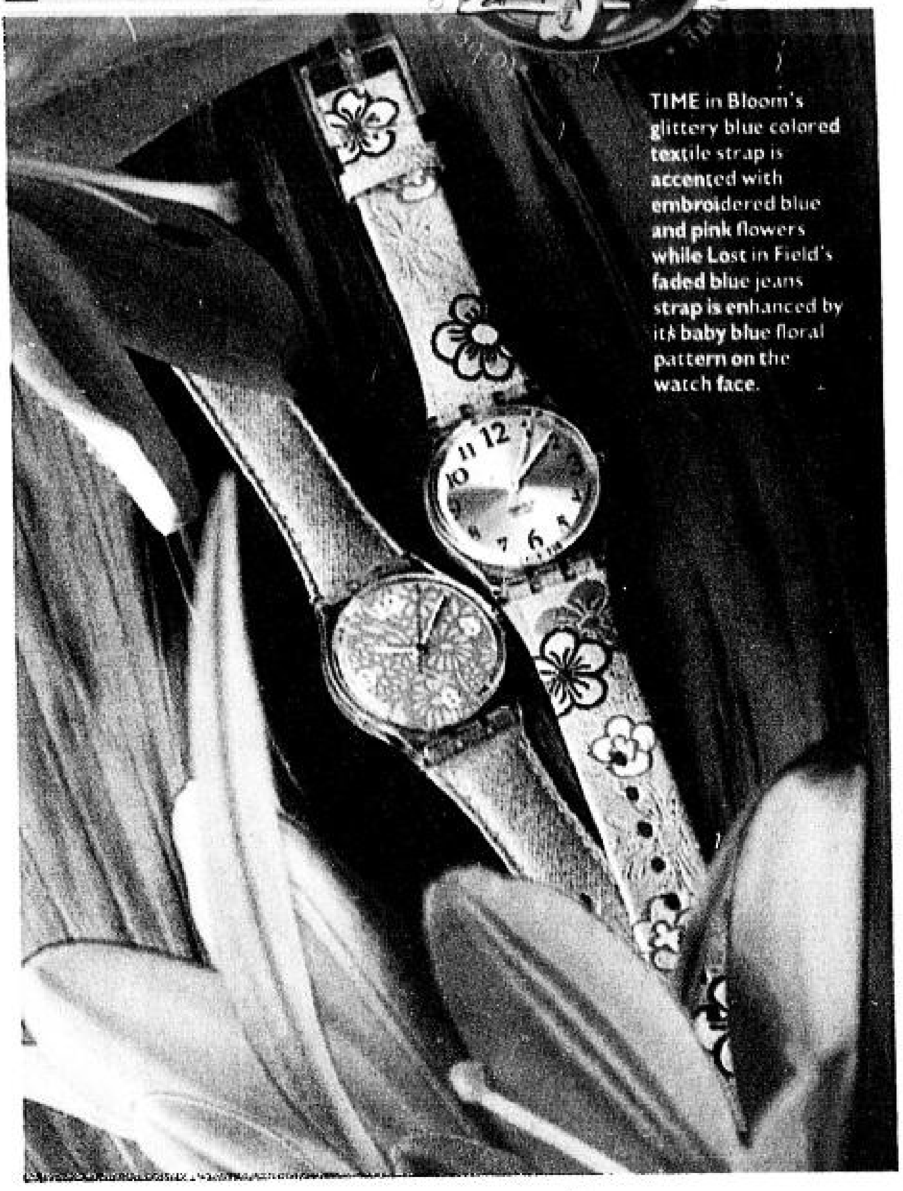
Take inspiration. Pot it, add sun and water, apply orchids and dreams and allow time to flourish. As with all things natural and pure, there's always a perfect time to blossom with Swatch Time in Bloom on your wrist. Or you may choose to be whimsical and frolic in the breeze and reverie of youth. Take yourself to a place where time is forgotten with Swatch Lost in the Field.

Another kind of watch with an outdoor touch is Swatch Lucky You. It has a scuttling ladybird creeping toward a four-leafed clover—even lucky charms need twice the luck sometimes. And if flowers are more to your liking, Swatch Essence Printaniere is perfect for you. Fragrant and attractive, it's a celebration of new beginnings, the awakening of the senses to that which is quintessential.

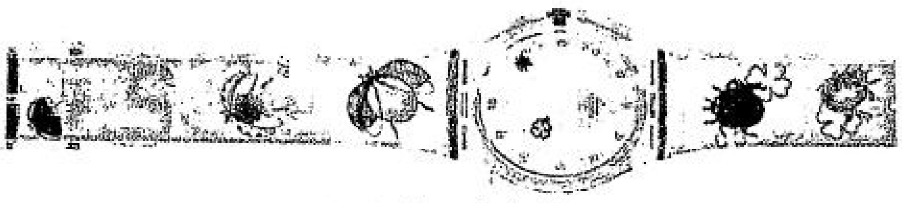
And as the Year of the Sheep begins, bring on an extra dose of luck with the extra large watch Black Sheep Too. Have twice the watch and twice the sheep with this extra special watch.

This exciting collection is now available at all Gift Gate, Swatch stores and kiosks. Swatch is exclusively distributed by Gift Gate, Inc.

PERFECT for the Year of the Ram, even for counting sheep, is Black Sheep Too.



TIME in Bloom's glittery blue colored textile strap is accented with embroidered blue and pink flowers while Lost in Field's faded blue jeans strap is enhanced by its baby blue floral pattern on the watch face.



FLURRY of ladybirds in Lucky You"s refreshing and colorful strap.

Pure girl power through apparel

NANCY Castiglione, the Canadian-bred Filipino-Italian young star, exhibits a fashion style that reflects her vibrant personality and zest for life.

On TV, she can be charming or provocative, like in her yogurt and beer commercials. Or juvenile and a bit wicked, as in her two soap operas on GMA 7.

Whatever role she assumes, her flair in fashion comes out naturally, helping her convey the image that she wants. That's why she has been chosen to be the newest female celebrity endorser of Bobson, a leading brand in casual apparel.

"Nancy is one of the freshest faces in show business today," says Bobson CEO Victor Tan. "She epitomizes the kind of personality and style that Bobson projects—smart, casual and cosmopolitan."

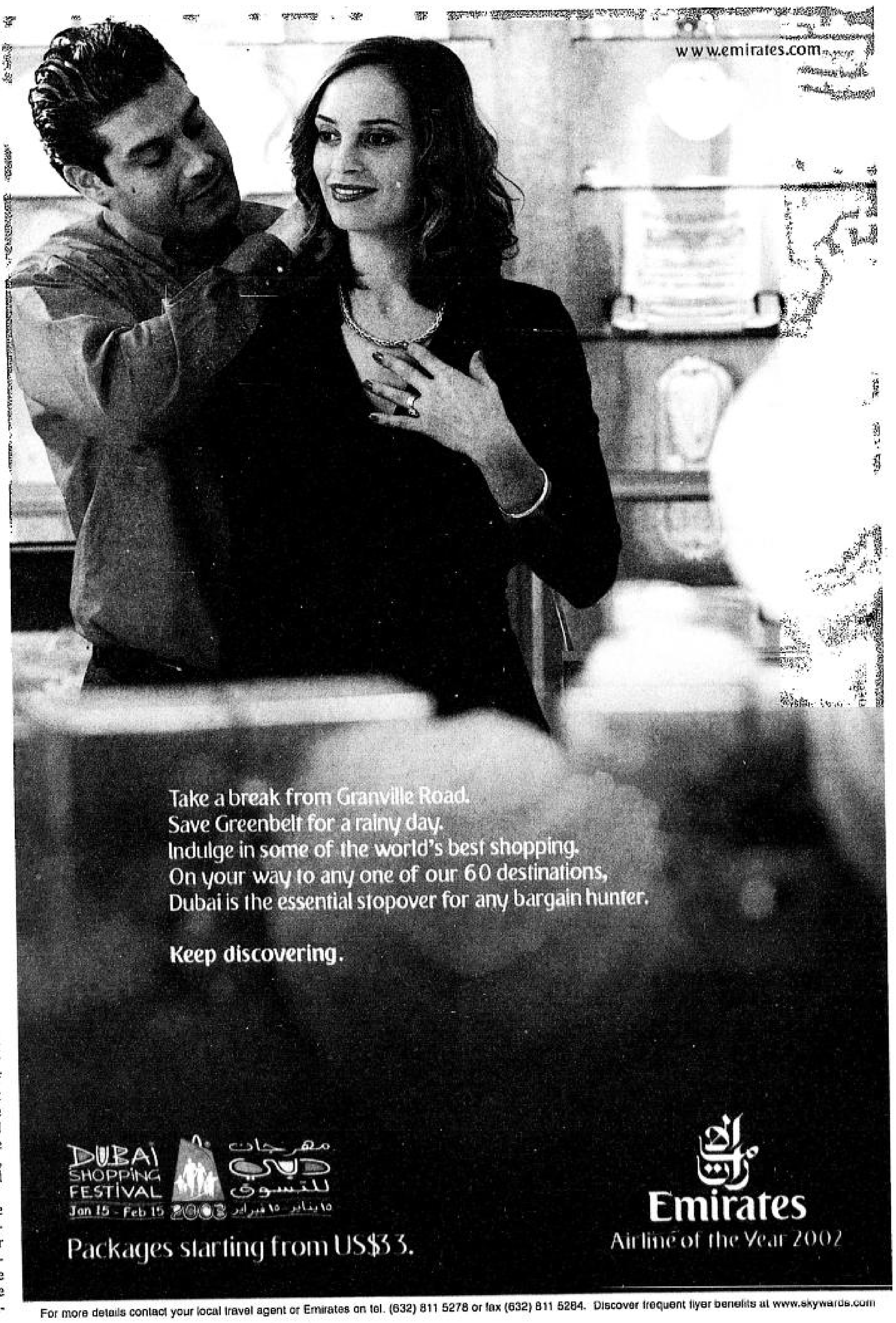
For Nancy, fashion is an integral aspect of personal uniqueness. She considers clothes as a statement, an expression, a celebration of individuality.

Says she: "My definition of fashion is comfortable clothing that highlights your assets, reflects your mood and leaves a statement. Sometimes you can get away with an outrageous outfit as long as it fits you well and you are confident in wearing it."

Bobson's casual apparel complements Nancy's personal style and fashion. It features a comprehensive line of hip clothing that showcases quality and craftsmanship.

"I like Bobson because the clothes are stylish and perfectly cut to complement feminine features," she says. "It offers a wide array of outfits for women that will help us project the image we want. Now I wear them all the time—in gimmicks, TV guestings and more."

Bobson will be launching a new collection of apparel for women. Nancy Castiglione joins the brand's original male endorser, Aga Muhlach.



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